

FROM THERAPEUTIC USE TO ABUSE IN HORSES – OVERVIEW ON PERFORMANCE ALTERING SUBSTANCES AND THEIR DETECTION IN RACEHORSES

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SUMMARY

The performances in racehorses can be altered using the most sophisticated tools of the medicine: therapeutic substances (drugs). During the time the performance altering substances were “improved” but the knowledge about their detection were improved too.

Modern classification of the “Medication and performance on racehorse” includes Medicate to win and medicate to lose.

In most countries where horse races are under laws state restriction are also provided the facilities for identifying and dosing methods for the forbidden drugs (which indeed altering the performances). Over the years, these methods were improved and adapt ate for the different and newest such substances.

The real beginning of the detection era for forbidden substances in racehorse therapeutics it was done with ELISA Testing and after confirmation and quantization of suspect substances by Gas Chromatography- Mass Spectrometry.