

Correction of angular limb deformities in foals using kinesiology taping

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Background

Kinesiology taping is a technique consisting in the use of the elastic adhesive tapes in orthopedics, and one of its effects is promoting stabilization of anatomical structures. Angular deformities is a common problem affecting foals and its treatment is usually surgical. The objective is to evaluate the efficacy of kinesiologytaping as a treatment for angular limb deformities in foals.

Materials and Methods

Two cases of angular limb deformities were studied: Case 1: A 30-day-old, Mangalarga filly, with carpus valgus on the right front limb. Case 2: A 60-day-old, Quarter Horse foal, with carpus valgus on the left front limb.

In both cases, a 20 cm tape Vetkin Tape® was applied with 30% stretch over the medial aspect of the affected limb to support the medial collateral ligament of the carpus. A 10 cm tape for the two anchors was wrapped over the ends of the tape to avoid detachment.

The tape was changed every five days and the foals were reevaluated at 15 days of the treatment. The angles were measured in the pictures by ImageJ software.

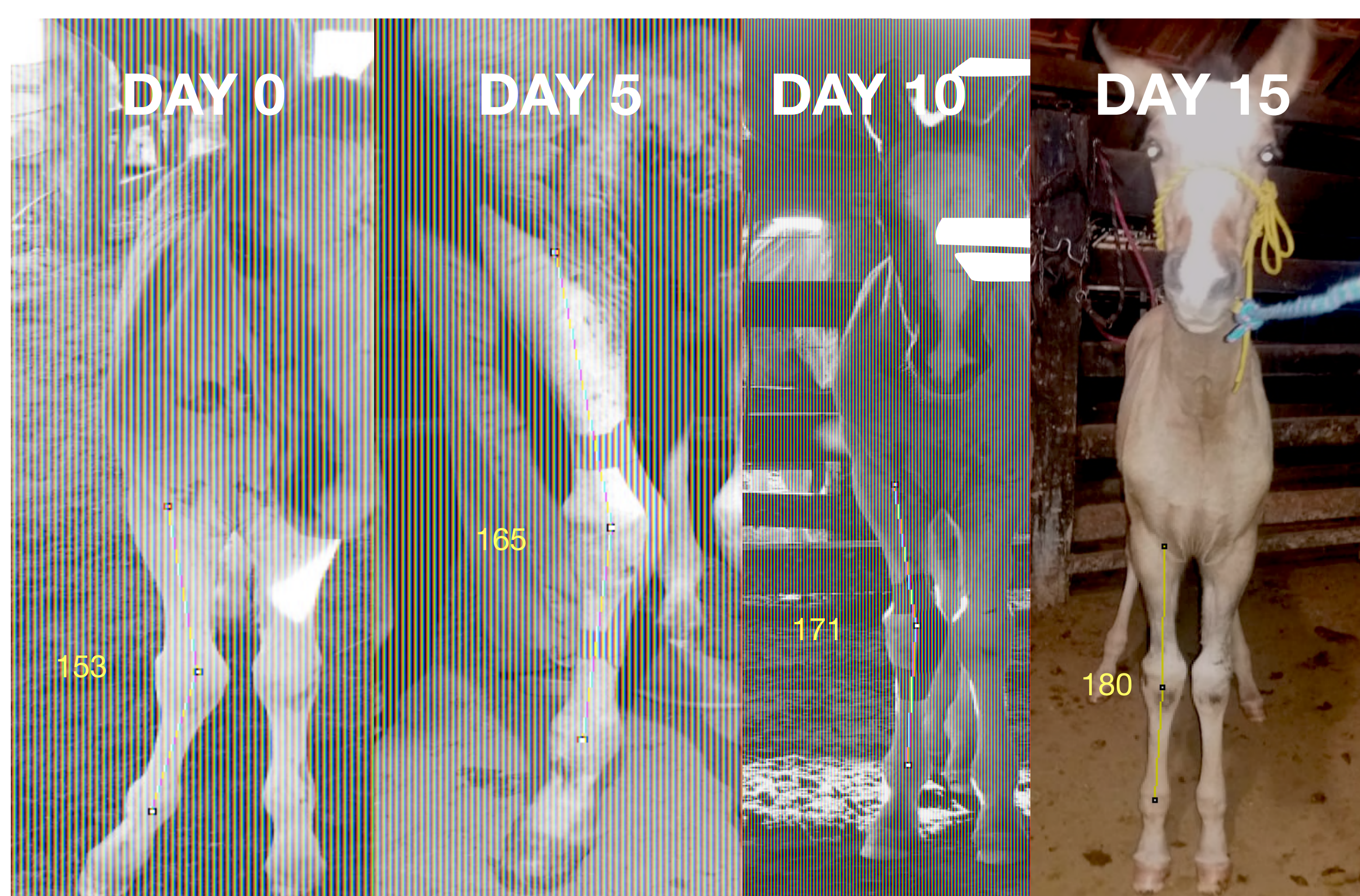


Fig.1: Case 1 - the angle of the carpus changed from 153 to 180 degrees during 15 days

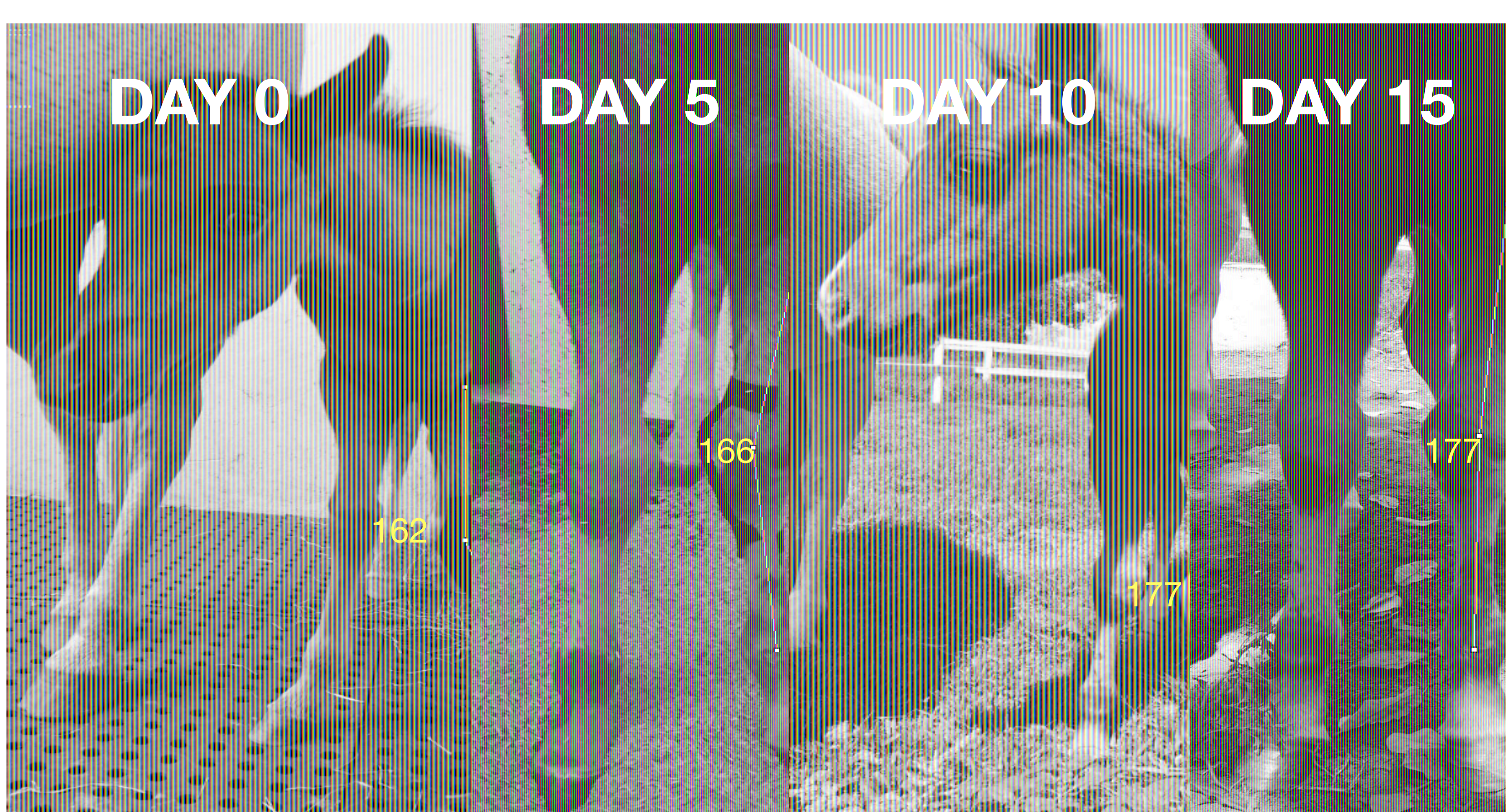


Fig.2: Case 2 - the angle of the carpus changed from 162 to 177 degrees during 15 days

Results

The degree of angular limb deformity improved in both cases during the 15-day treatment period. The angle of the carpus gradually approached a normal value from day 1 to day 15. The angle change in Case 1 was from 153 to 180 (Fig.1), and in Case 2 was from 162 to 177 degrees (Fig.2).

Conclusions

Kinesiotaping could be a potential non-invasive and inexpensive treatment for angular limb deformities in foals. Further research is warranted.

References

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