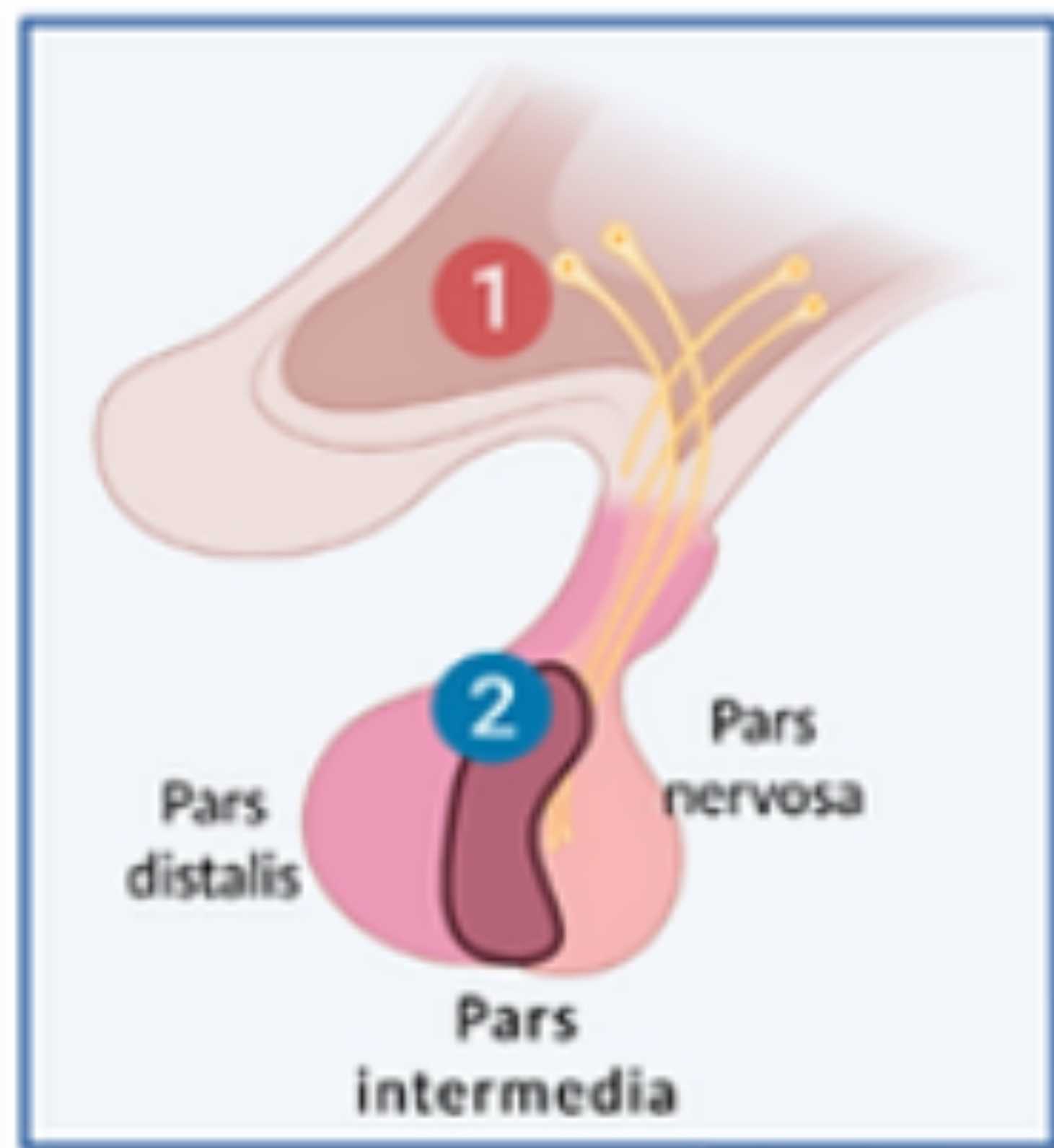


PPID AKA CUSHINGS DISEASE

Equine Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction



1 Loss of neurons from hypothalamus

Decreased dopamine levels

2 Increased growth of cells of pars intermedia
(portion of pituitary gland)

Increased hormone levels

SYMPTOMS:

- Long, wavy coat (hirsutism)
- Improper shedding
- Excessive drinking / urinating
- Laminitis
- Excessive sweating
- Muscle mass loss
- Bulging eyes
- Repeated infections (sole abscess or tooth root infection)
- Lethargy



DIAGNOSING

- A long, wavy coat that doesn't shed out properly is the best indication of PPID
- There is a **HUGE** seasonal component, especially in autumn
- Dexamethasone Suppression Test (DST) - be wary of positive results in autumn
- DST not recommended for horses with active laminitis
- Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH) concentration blood test (again, be wary of autumn!)
- Blood sample must be properly handled to be accurate
- It's a snapshot in time but informative
- Thyrotropin Releasing Hormone (TRH) testing administered in winter is statistically reliable
- PPID, Insulin Resistance (IR) and Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) are not the same but can be present in various combinations

TREATMENT

- Prascend (Pergolide) - FDA approved
- 1 full tablet daily is approximately \$800-900/year
- Weight management
- Low starch, low sugar diet (test your hay!)
- Limited access to pasture
- Slow feed devices (hay nets, etc.)
- Consistent, appropriate exercise
- Consistent, quality farrier care
- Regular dental care
- Clip hairy horses during warm months

CONCLUSION: THERE'S HOPE!

- Wellness management makes a big difference!
- Prascend is very effective
- We have access to a good veterinarians
- Horses can enjoy an acceptable quality of life for many years
- Yes, it's a lot of work and a pain in the rump but PPID can be managed!
- Source: American Association of Equine Practitioners
- <https://aaep.org/issue/equine-cushings-disease-equine-pituitary-pars-intermedia-dysfunction>



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