

The digital flexor tendon sheath

It is a very thin-walled synovial cavity in the fetlock region, extends from the distal part of third metacarpal/metatarsal bone to the proximal to the navicular bursa.

This synovial structure contains the superficial and deep digital flexor tendons in the part where pass around the palmar/plantar aspect of the metacarpophalangeal joint.

The digital synovial sheath is proximally bordered by the palmar annular ligament, in the middle is bordered by the proximal digital annular ligament and distally by the distal digital annular ligament.

There are three approaches for entering sheath's pouches, proximal, distal and axial sesamoidean approach. The sheath may be injected from palmarolateral or palmaromedial sites distal to the annular ligament. Also the sheath can be entered on the palmar/plantar aspect of the pastern joint between the proximal and distal digital annular ligaments.

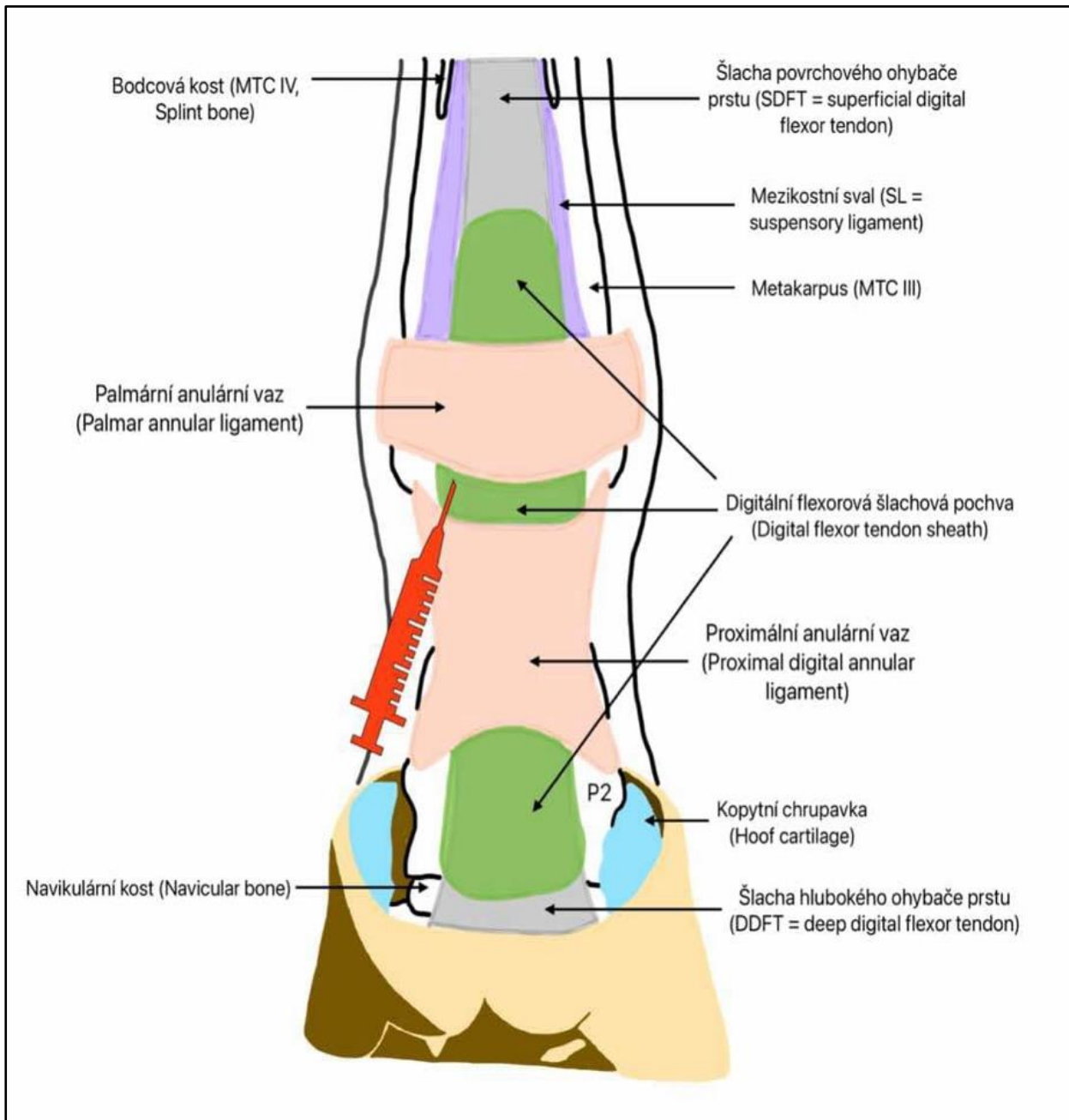
Analgesia of the digital tendon sheath is most commonly performed only in the presence of synovial distension of the sheath. A volume of local anaesthetic is 10 ml.

Injection technique:

The axial sesamoidean approach is performed between the annular and proximal digital annular ligaments, the needle is inserted in a distal to proximal direction at approximately a 45° angle to the sagittal plane.

The distal approach is located between the proximal and distal digital annular ligaments and between the branches of the superficial digital flexor tendon and where the deep digital flexor tendon lies close to the

skin. The needle is inserted from lateral to medial direction, under the skin. The distal approach is performed when the effusion is presented.



Distal approach to the digital flexor tendon sheath.



The injection site of the distal approach is performed between the annular and proximal digital annular ligaments



The axial sesamoidean approach – the needle is inserted in a distal to proximal direction at approximately a 45° angle to the sagittal plane.



The distal approach is located between the proximal and distal digital annular ligaments and between the branches of the superficial digital flexor tendon and where the deep digital flexor tendon lies close to the skin.



The needle is inserted from lateral to medial direction, under the skin.