What causes hypersalivation in horses? When horses drool excessively, it’s often a warning sign of an underlying health issue. Understanding the causes can help protect your horse from serious conditions. Here are some reasons why your horse might be producing excess saliva:

**Primary Salivary Gland Diseases**

- **Tongue abnormality**
- **Edentulous condition**
- **Tongue ulceration**
- **Sulcular (between the gum and the tooth) bleeding**
- **Plaque**
- **Diabetes**
- **Oral masses/tumors**

**Infectious Causes**

- **Rabies**
  - A viral disease that affects the central nervous system, causing fatal neurological symptoms.
- **Equine herpes virus type 1 (EHV-1)**
- **Equine encephalomyelitis virus**
- **Equine influenza virus**
- **Borna disease virus**

**Neoplastic (Cancerous) Causes**

- **Tongue tumors**
- **Laryngeal hemangioma**
- **Laryngeal papilloma**
- **Tongue melanoma**
- **Tongue cancer**

**Toxic Causes**

- **Slaframine**
  - A chemical produced by several species of mushrooms, particularly A. duranae, that can cause excessive salivation.
- **Oxalic acid**
  - Found in certain plants and can cause digestive disturbances.

**Metabolic Causes**

- **Hypothyroidism**
- **Hyperadrenocorticism**
- **Diabetes mellitus**
- **Osteoarthropathy**

**CNS (Central Nervous System) Causes**

- **Bacterial meningitis**
- **Fungal meningitis**
- **Cerebral edema**
- **Hepatic encephalopathy**
- **Central nervous system neoplasms**

**Neurological Causes**

- **Brain tumors**
- **Brain edema**
- **Brain abscess**
- **Chronic recurrent laryngeal neuropathy**

**Parasitic Causes**

- **Equine parasitic meningoencephalitis**
- **Equine fungal meningitis**
- **Equine protozoal meningoencephalitis**

**Respiratory Causes**

- **Equine asthma**
- **Equine recurrent laryngeal neuropathy**
- **Equine stridor**

**Endocrine Causes**

- **Cushing’s disease**

**Autoimmune Causes**

- **Equine systemic lupus erythematosus**

**Other Causes**

- **Diuretics**
- **Steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs**

**Environmental Causes**

- **Lead poisoning**
- **Toxic plants**
- **Toxic mold**

**Hypersalivation and Oral Health**

Excessive equine salivation can lead to various conditions such as:

- **Bacterial and fungal infections**
- **Ulcers**
- **Caries**
- **Soft tissue trauma**
- **Respiratory problems**
- **Kidney disease**

**Conclusion**

Hypersalivation in horses is a common issue that requires a thorough examination to determine the underlying cause. Early identification and treatment can prevent more serious complications. Always consult your veterinarian for a proper diagnosis and treatment plan.