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Exercise practices and incidence of veterinary events in Thoroughbreds between birth and 6 months of age: Preliminary findings from a cohort study

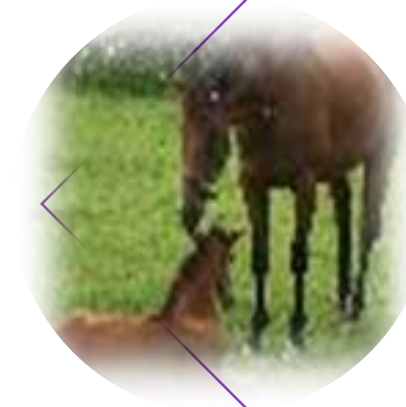
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Background

Evidence suggests that early-life exposures may be critical to an individual's predisposition to disease and injury in later life. Limited information exists on Thoroughbreds' health and husbandry during this early-life period.

Aims

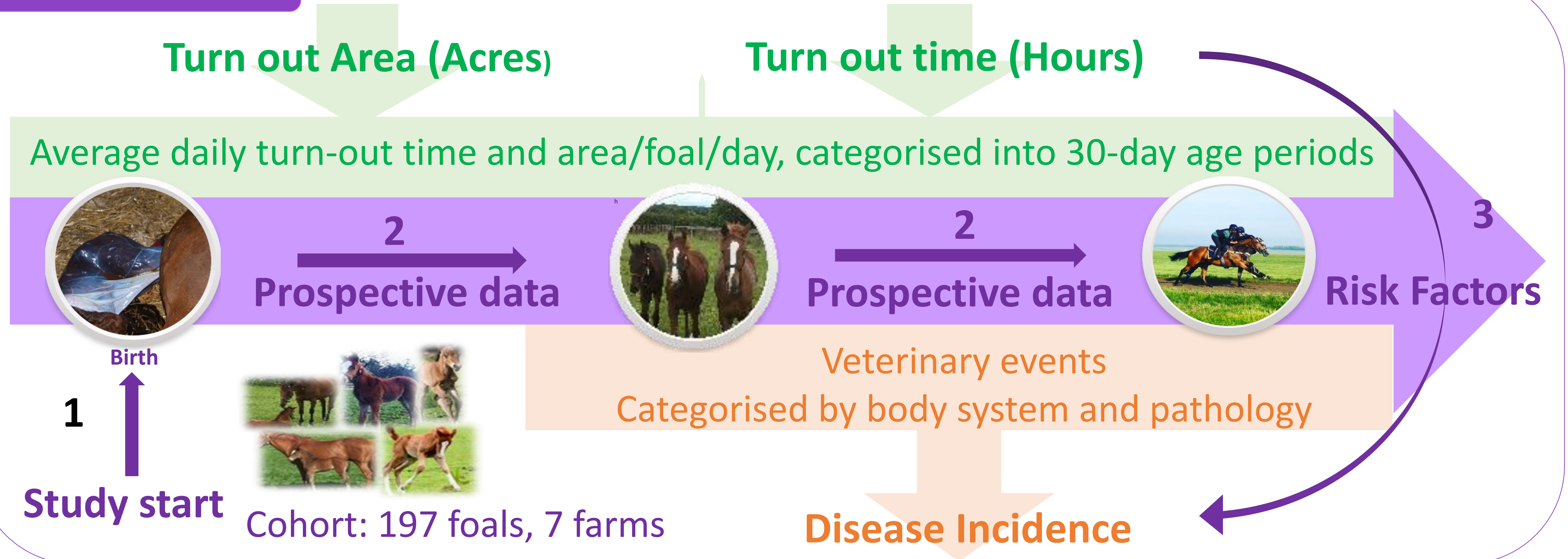


Estimate incidence of disease



Describe early exercise practices

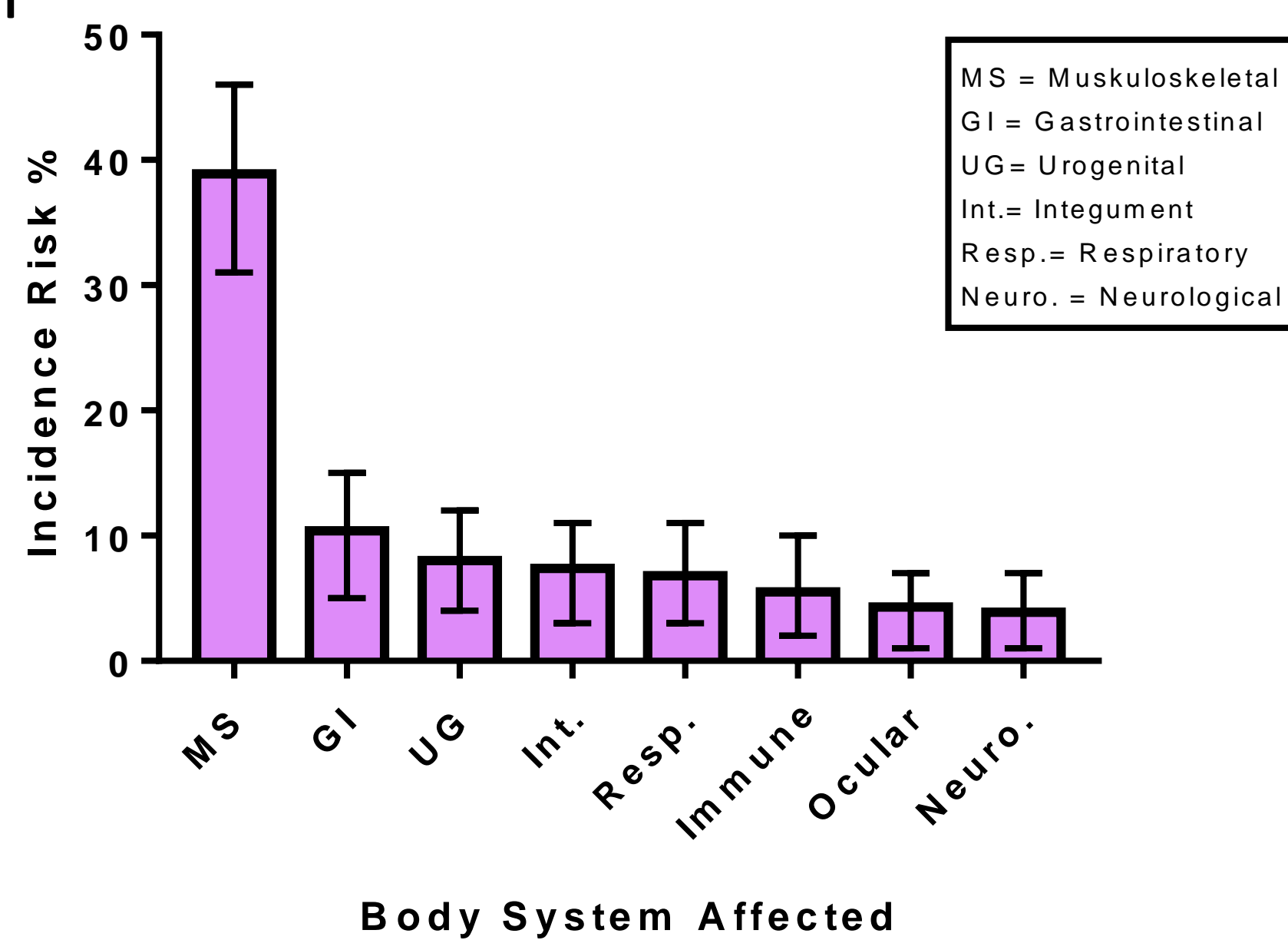
Methods



Results

➤ New veterinary events identified in 65% of foals

Incidence Risk (with 95% confidence interval) of disease by body system



Incidence rates of musculoskeletal diseases stratified by farm

Farm	Incidence rate/100 foal days at risk (95% CI)	
	Musculoskeletal disease	Congenital/Developmental pathologies
2	11.7 (7.9-17.3)	5.0 (2.8-8.8)
3	61.1 (31.8-117.4)	54.9 (27.5-109.8)
4	22.3 (10.6-46.8)	17.6 (7.9-39.3)
5	17.4 (10.5-28.9)	13.8 (8.0-23.7)
6	6.3 (0.9-44.8)	0.00 (N/A)
7	6.2 (2.6-15.0)	6.3 (2.6-15.0)
Overall	14.0 (10.9-18.0)	9.1 (6.8-12.3)

➤ Turn out time and area varied significantly ($P < 0.05$) by month of age of foal and between stud farms

Conclusions



Musculoskeletal disease, in particular congenital/developmental pathologies are an important cause of disease in Thoroughbred foals



Early exercise varied significantly by foal age category and stud farm

