Further clinic examinations that can be conducted for lameness in horses:-

* **Digital radiography and digital ultrasound** for superior images (although some field veterinarians use these as well): “Digital radiography provides highly detailed images, primarily of bone,” says Steve Adair, DVM, Dipl. ACVS, associate professor of Equine Surgery at the University of Tennessee. “Diagnostic ultrasound gives dynamic images of primarily soft tissues (tendons and ligaments) but can also be used to evaluate the surface of bones and a portion of articular cartilage.”
* **Nuclear scintigraphy (bone scan):** A radioactive substance injected into the blood stream concentrates in areas of active bone changes, such as fractures and bone inflammation. “A specialized camera detects this localized radiation within the horse’s body, producing an image that shows the problematic regions,” says Judy. “Nuclear scintigraphy is very effective at detecting subtle injuries of bone and some soft tissues that may be difficult to detect using other means. It is also effective at detecting injuries of the upper limbs that are difficult to image using traditional methods, such as radiography and ultrasound.”
* **Computed axial tomography (CAT scan or CT scan):** “This radiographic technique creates a cross-sectional image of the structure being imaged, allowing for a very high degree of detail and a much higher degree of sensitivity in uncovering subtle injuries,” Judy explains. “A CAT scan is best for evaluating bone, although soft tissues can be evaluated to a lesser degree.”
* **Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI):** An MRI is a detailed three-dimensional evaluation, which depicts anatomical changes that have already occurred as well as many physiological changes that are still occurring, allowing for earlier detection of a problem compared to other techniques, says Judy. “An MRI can show cartilage damage, accumulation of fluid within bone, and soft tissue injuries within the hoof,” adds Adair.
* **Thermography:** Infrared imaging determines the surface temperature of the skin, which may reflect changes or damage to structures that lie beneath the skin. “An increased temperature in a specific area may indicate deeper pathology, such as an inflamed joint or bone,” Adair says. “This could help localize the problem area, which can then be further examined with X-rays, MRI, CT, ultrasound, et cetera.”
* **Force plate:** This instrument measures the force exerted by each limb while the horse is moving. Because a horse applies reduced force on a sore limb, the veterinarian can confirm the presence of even a slight lameness, says Adair.
* **Gait (or motion) analysis via high-speed video:** High-speed video enables the veterinarian to determine different patterns of motion, such as range of joint motion, or the length and height of a stride, Adair explains. By reviewing high-speed tape in slow motion, frame by frame, a veterinarian can pick up subtle abnormalities that might otherwise escape detection.
* **Diagnostic arthroscopy**: In this procedure, a flexible straw-like instrument called an arthroscope, with a tiny light, camera and precision tools,  is inserted into a joint, allowing the veterinarian to observe (and often repair) joint abnormalities, says Adair.

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