

### Calcaneal Bursa

**Quantity of Local Anesthetic:** 10 to 15 mL

**Needle Size:** 1-1/2 inches, 20 gauge

**Injection Technique:** The calcaneal bursa is located between the SDFT and the caudal aspect of the calcaneus. When distended, the bursa has synovial outpouchings medial and lateral to the tendon both proximal and distal to the SDFT retinaculum. These can often be seen as four distinct pockets of fluid surrounding the point of the hock in horses with bursal distention. Synovial aspiration is best performed using the lateral synovial outpouchings either above or below the SDFT retinaculum with the horse bearing weight (Figure 3.103). A 1-1/2-inch, 20-gauge needle is angled proximally or distally within these outpouchings to avoid the SDFT. The sites for needle placement are the same as those described for insertion of the arthroscope into the calcaneal bursa, 1 cm dorsal to the SDFT and 1 cm distal to the medial or lateral aspect of the SDFT retinaculum.

**Pitfalls:**

1. Needle contacts bone—needle directed too deep
2. Excessive pressure when injecting—needle against or within the SDFT
3. Inability to aspirate synovial fluid