**Protection Against Components of Enteric Bacteria**

**1. 2.**

n healthy horses, the mucosal lining of the GI tract restricts enteric bacteria and their structural components (e.g. endotoxins, lipoproteins, nucleic acids, flagellin) to the intestinal lumen

However, when this mucosal barrier is disrupted, as occurs with intestinal ischemia or inflammation, the bacterial components can move into the peritoneal cavity and then be absorbed into the systemic circulation

Thus: **minimizing the inflammatory responses to endotoxemia is a vital part of colic therapy.**

Prostaglandins are involved in causing many of endotoxin’s early ill effects. **Flunixin meglumine** reduces the cellular production of prostaglandins and can help prevent some of their effects. Because flunixin can help prevent some of the early effects of endotoxemia at dosages less than the recommended dosage (1.1 mg/kg), smaller dosages (0.25 mg/kg) can be administered without masking clinical signs associated with conditions that require surgery.

**Polymyxin B**has been used to prevent endotoxin from interacting with the horse’s inflammatory cells. Polymyxin B has well-documented nephrotoxicity; however, concentrations of polymyxin B that bind endotoxin are far less than those that cause toxic effects. This form of therapy should be started as early as possible in the clinical course of the disease