Zuku Review FlashNotes™

Equine Neuroaxonal Dystrophy (NAD) &
Equine Degenerative Myeloencephalopathy (EDM)
Condensed Version

Presentation:
- Neurodegenerative disorder-causes ataxia and in severe cases, paresis, in young horses.
- Appears to have a genetic basis. Vitamin E deficiency is also common finding.

History and signalment
- Suckling and weanling foals, Usually less than 6 months. Never over 2 y of age
- Lack of access to vitamin E-rich forage

Clinical signs
- **Symmetric ataxia, weakness** in pelvic limbs or all 4
  - Usually pelvic limbs are more profoundly affected than thoracic limbs
  - Clumsiness
  - Puts limbs in strange positions while standing
- Rarely progresses to recumbency - usually plateaus
- Hypometria
- Falls while running
- Hyporeflexia over the neck and trunk
  - Slap test (thoracolaryngeal reflex)
  - Cutaneous trunci reflex
  - Cervicofacial reflex

Test(s) of choice: Serum vit. E conc. Young animals in early disease – very low to undetectable

Rx of choice: Vitamin E supplementation may result in stabilization but is not curative

Prognosis: Poor for recovery – Good for plateau of clinical signs and normal lifespan

Prevention: Rich green forage & Vitamin E supplementation in groups where disease is prevalent

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Classic Question(s)

An Appaloosa foal that has been raised on a dirt lot presents with progressive ataxia and weakness in the pelvic limbs. The diet consists mainly of pelleted feed and sun-dried forage. What diagnostic test is indicated?

Which breeds have a genetic predisposition to equine neuroaxonal dystrophy (NAD)?
What is the typical age of a horse with equine degenerative myeloencephalopathy (EDM)?

Name two preventive measures where equine degenerative myeloencephalopathy is prevalent.

What is the relationship between equine neuroaxonal dystrophy and equine degenerative myeloencephalopathy