Listeriosis ("circling disease")

Condensed Version

**Presentation:** Think of a silage-fed adult cow, head tilt, circling
- Sensory, motor dysfunction of trigeminal nerve
  - Asymmetric sensory loss on face
  - Weak jaw closure
- Purulent ophthalmitis, exposure keratitis
- Isolation from rest of herd
- Ocular and nasal discharge
- Food stuck in mouth, weak tongue, bloat
- Marked somnolence, tetraparesis, ataxia
- Poor to absent palpebral reflexes
- Difficulty swallowing/poor gag reflex
- Obtundation, semicoma, death

**Test(s) of choice:** Mammals-Clinical sx+s + CSF analysis
- Mononuclear pleocytosis, Increased protein
- Culture is difficult and usually unsuccessful

**Rx of choice:**
- ABX: Penicillin, sulfonamides, tetracyclines (avian, mammals), or ampicillin for 2-4 wks
- Single dose of corticosteroids is controversial
- SUPPORT: Fluid therapy, dietary maintenance

**Prognosis:** Guarded to poor
- Poor if recumbent and/or can’t swallow
- 50% if standing and can swallow

**Prevention:** Complete anaerobic rendering of silage

**Pearls:** *Listeria monocytogenes* Zoonotic concern
Most common encephalitis in dairy cows. No forebrain sx: (Szrs, aggressive, blindness)

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**Zuku Review FlashNotes™**

**Classic Question(s)**

What are four typical clinical signs of listeriosis in ruminants?
What is the main source of listeriosis in ruminants?

What is the diagnostic test of choice for listeriosis in the ruminant?
How would you treat a standing cow with a presumptive diagnosis of listeriosis?

How can listeriosis be prevented in dairy cattle?

What are the typical clinical signs of listeriosis in young birds vs older birds?