Presentation: Fast-growing calf or lamb, NEUROLOGIC, blind, staggering, down

Poorly understood nutritional dz of ruminants, assoc w/ altered thiamine status &/or high sulfur intake

See bilaterally symmetric clinical signs of cerebral dysfunction: esp. in calves, lambs, kids
- Staggering, recumbent, opisthotnors, cortical blindness, pathognomonic dorsomedial strabismus

Test(s) of choice:
Clin sx; Hx - diet change, poor pasture, other dz causing anorexia
Dorsomedial strabismus pathognomonic
Rotten egg smell in rumen gases w/ high sulfur
Response to Rx w/ vitamin B1 is suggestive of PEM

Rx of Choice:
EARLY TREATMENT IS VITAL PEM Sx seen before CNS damage occurs

1.) Thiamine (vitamin B1): 10-20 mg/kg TID dosing
   - INITIAL dose should be IV then IM, SC after
   - Continue vB1 for days past improvement

Prognosis:
PEM is reversible with early treatment - Blindness is last sign to disappear;
Grave Px for advanced, prolonged cases, permanent brain damage possible

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Zuku Review FlashNotes™

Classic Question(s)

Dorsomedial strabismus is pathognomonic for what condition?

What is the treatment of choice for an afebrile, recumbent, blind sheep suspected of having polioencephalomalacia?
- By what route do you give it?
- How long do you give it?

What are two key etiologies thought to be most commonly associated with development of polioencephalomalacia in ruminants?