**Presentation:** Weight loss, aspiration pneumonia; Neuro signs, behavior changes
- White-tailed deer, mule deer, elk
- Recently found in Canadian moose
- Adults, older than 16 months of age
- Aspiration pneumonia – esophageal dysfunction

**Test of choice:** detects prion protein
- ELISA – screening
- Immunohistochemistry/Western blot – confirms

**White-tailed deer and mule deer**
- CNS (Obex) & lymphoid tissues
- Always submit retropharyngeal lymph node

**Elk**
- Brainstem - the obex area, and lymphoid tissues

**Rx of choice:** None  
**Prognosis:** Grave

**Prevention:**
- Quarantine - Test and cull – control programs in many states
- Incineration; Approved disinfectants only; Prions very resistant to destruction
- Hunters beware - **Cooking DOES NOT destroy PrP**

**Pearls:**
**CWD is a Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)**
Caused by a Prion - PrP<sub>CWD</sub> - abnormal protein, secondary structure is ‘misfolded’

Horizontal transmission – direct contact between animals &/or environment

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Zuku Review FlashNotes™

**Classic Question(s)**

What are the classic clinical signs for chronic wasting disease of cervids?
What is the cause of CWD? What treatment is available for CWD?
What species are susceptible to CWD?
What test is most reliable for diagnosis of CWD? What tissue is most often used for diagnosis?
What tissue(s) should also be submitted for CWD testing in deer?
How is CWD transmitted? What is/are the best method(s) to prevent CWD?