

NERVOUS FORM OF CAPRINE ARTHRITIS-ENCEPHALITIS: CLINICAL AND LABORATORY PARAMETERS

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Abstract / Resumo:

The caprine arthristis-encephalitis (CAE) is a multisystemic, chronic and wasting disease. Its main route of transmission is the ingestion of colostrum and/or milk from seropositive goats. Of all the forms of manifestation of the disease, encephalitis is the least common. When it happens, it affects goat kids aged 60-120 days. The diagnosis is made through history, and evaluation of clinical, pathological and laboratory findings. This study aimed to describe neurological symptoms, as well as to perform blood counts and biochemical and microbiological evaluation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of seven seropositive goat kids, as then confirmed by western blotting. The main symptoms observed were increased cardio-respiratory frequency, muscle weakness, tremors, circling, initial state of blindness, nystagmus, head tilt and ataxia or paresis of hind limbs evolved to the supine and/or lateral position. Despite all these symptoms, animals showed normal appetite and temperature. No change in CSF biochemical parameters were found, as well as no bacterial growth. One animal presented anemia, which is compatible with *Haemonchus contortus* parasitism. Two other animals showed a slight leukocytosis (lymphocytosis and neutrofilia), which corroborates with previous work in animals infected by the CAE virus.