

FLOPPY KID SYNDROME

Floppy kid syndrome (FKS) was first reported in 1987. It is a disease or toxicity characterized by metabolic acidosis (elevated levels of D-lactate in the bloodstream), hypokalemia (potassium deficiency), and weakness in goat kids. Kids are normal at birth, but quickly develop symptoms, usually between 3 and 10 days of age. Bottle-raised kids seem to be most prone, though it can affect dam-raised kids, too. While the exact cause is unknown, it is believed to be the result of excessive milk consumption. Lambs can get something similar, but it is less common.



Symptoms

- Fine at birth
- Sudden muscle weakness
- Inability to suckle
- Lack of muscle tone
- Flaccid paralysis
- Abnormal postures
- Depression
- Pain
- Usually no fever, dehydration, or diarrhea
- Fatality is high.
- Some kids recover on their own, but it is rare

Treatment

- Early intervention
- Stop feeding milk
- Correct acid-base balance: sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
Oral or IV
- Supportive care

Prevention

- Difficult
- Prevent overconsumption of milk
 - ♦ Monitor milk intake of artificially-reared kids
 - ♦ Milk goats before putting them in with kids
 - ♦ Kid on pasture to prevent kids from ingesting too much milk in short time.
- Separate kids from dams and feed them cow colostrum and milk
- Frequent health monitoring of kids
- Monitor potassium levels in does

Differential diagnosis

- White muscle disease
- Enterotoxemia
- Hypoglycemia
- Abomasal bloat
- Starvation
- Hypothermia
- Septicemia
- Colibacillosis (*E. coli*)

