

Vitamin K deficiency

A primary deficiency of Vit K is unlikely under natural condition in domestic animals because of high content of substances with Vit K activity in most plants and the substantial synthesis of these substances by microbial activity in the alimentary canal.

Sporadic cases may occur when impairment of the flow of bile reduces the digestion and absorption of this fat soluble vitamin.

Clinical findings: -

A **haemorrhagic disease** of recently weaned pigs from **6-15 weeks** of age is considered to be associated with Vit K deficiency.

Affected pigs fail to **grow, become pale**, develop large subcutaneous heatomas and exhibit lameness and epistaxis.

Excessive and fatal haemorrhage following routine castration may occur in pigs from 30- 40 days of age but not 15-20 day of age.

Prothrombine time and **activated partial thromboplastine time** are prolonged along with decreased levels of Vit K dependent factors II, VI, X1, X.

At **necropsy** haemorrhage are extensive in the muscles of **hindlimbs**, forelimbs and auxiliary mandibular region.

Treatment

Vit K given at dose of 3 mg/kg B.W as single dose will restore the blood coagulation defects to normal.