Poster presentations

Use of tiletamine-zolazepam in common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*)

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OBJECTIVES

Important work is carried out in wildlife rehabilitation centers all over the world, frequently with little funding. Light anaesthesia can be used to reduce stress caused by daily clinical routines of birds. Ketamine combinations are safe and are frequently used in these settings with good results. Due to the present threat of the banning of ketamine, new products need to be evaluated. We decided to use tiletamine instead of ketamine.

METHODS

We included a total of 15 common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*). Different doses of tiletamine/zolazepam were administered IM: 2 patients received 20 mg kg⁻¹, 2 30 mg kg⁻¹, 5 40 mg kg⁻¹ and 6 received 20 mg kg⁻¹ plus xylazine. HR, fR, cloacal temperature, muscle tone and response to pain were recorded every 5 minutes. Quality of induction, anaesthesia and recovery were also evaluated.

RESULTS

All patients responded well to induction and rapidly became recumbent. Patient handling was easy due to no struggling, although muscle relaxation was not good and 33,3% shivered. All patients maintained vital constants within normal limits, although cloacal temperature dropped drastically over time (5 minutes 41,0 ± 1,0°C, 30 minutes 38,7 ± 2,5°C). All patients recovered calmly.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Doses of 20 mg kg, 30 and 40 tiletamine/zolazepam, with or without xylazine in common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), made patient handling easier, thus reducing stressful time during clinical routines, although it failed to provide good anaesthesia quality. Tiletamine/zolazepam combinations, although safe, should not be recommended for general anaesthesia of common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), at these doses, but further studies would be interesting.

Use of butorphanol in sevoflurane anaesthetized Greylag geese (*Anser anser*)

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OBJECTIVES

Pinioning is a method used to prevent flight of birds kept in captivity. Traditionally inhalatory agents are used for avian anaesthesia. Opioids are strong analgesic agents used widely in numerous species, although there are few studies in aquatic birds. We wanted a pain free protocol for pinioning.

METHODS

6 Greylag geese (*Anser anser*) were submitted to pinioning. 2 received only sevoflurane anaesthesia (SEVO group)

and 4 received 4mg kg⁻¹ butorphanol 20 minutes prior to gas induction (SEVO+BT group). Induction was carried out with 8% sevoflurane delivered via facemask attached to a semiopen circuit using Ayre's "T" piece. HR, fR, cloacal temperature, % sevoflurane, SpO₂ and PECO₂ were recorded every 5 minutes. Quality of induction, anaesthesia and recovery were also evaluated.

RESULTS

A swift and smooth induction was achieved in all cases. All patients presented an excellent degree of muscle relaxation maintaining all vital constants within normal limits. All SEVO cases, responded slightly to some of the painful surgical stimuli, while this occurred only in 50% of SEVO + BT group. Mean sevoflurane concentrations were 6,7 ± 1,5% (SEVO) and 7,0 ± 1,4% (SEVO + BT). Recovery was also excellent in all cases.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Sevoflurane anaesthesia, with and without butorphanol is a safe option for anaesthetizing Greylag geese (*Anser anser*) for pinioning, although can not be recommended due to lack of analgesia in some cases. Adding 4 mg kg⁻¹ 20 minutes prior to sevoflurane anaesthesia did not reduce % sevoflurane requirements and only improved analgesia quality in 50% of the patients. Further studies are needed, perhaps with higher doses of butorphanol.