DOSING STRATEGIES AND SEDATIVE EFFECTS OF DETOMIDINE OROMUCOSAL GEL IN DOGS WITH VETERINARY-RELATED AGGRESSION

M. Hopfensperger*, D. Isard, M. Panagos
Michigan State University, Michigan, USA
hopfens1@msu.edu or hopdvm@gmail.com

Abstract

For dogs with veterinary-related aggression, sedation may be warranted for the safety and welfare of patients and staff. While injectable sedation can be challenging in this population, oromucosal administration requires minimal restraint or skill (Hall et al.,1994; Slingsby et al., 2009) and can be administered by clients (Korpivaara, 2017). Detomidine gel (Dormosedan®; Zoetis Inc., Kalamazoo, MI) is an α-2 agonist sedative approved for horses and previously evaluated in research dogs (Hopfensperger et al., 2013; Messenger et al., 2016; Kasten et al., 2018). The aim of the present study was to document dosing in canine patients with veterinary-related aggression. Seventy-one sedative events were included, 64 recovery and 7 euthanasia events. Adequate sedation, defined as the need for no more than one injection attempt following administration of detomidine gel, was achieved in most cases (n=55). All dogs presenting for euthanasia achieved adequate sedation; their mean dose was 12 mg/m2 (range, 4 to 24 mg/m2). Mean dosing for recovery events achieving adequate sedation (n=48) was 7 mg/m2 (range, 2 to 14 mg/m2). Pre-visit pharmaceuticals (PVP) were prescribed prior to 21 sedative events, and additional injectable sedatives were administered in most cases (n=53). Regression analysis was utilized to evaluate the relationships between sedative outcome and prescribed dose with pertinent predictor variables. There were no significant relationships between dose or PVP administration and adequate sedation. Detomidine gel was safely administered in canine patients with veterinary-related aggression, and dogs recovered uneventfully at doses up to 14 mg/m2.

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Keywords
Dog(s), oromucosal gel, sedation, veterinary-related aggression