

Short-term anaesthesia with xylazine, diazepam/ketamine for castration in horses under field conditions: Use of intravenous lidocaine

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Keywords: horse; field; anaesthesia; analgesia; lidocaine; castration

Recovery quality scoring system*

A. Overall attitude

- 1- calm
- 2- calm/determined
- 3- confused, dizzy
- 4- frantic

B. Move to sternal

- 1- smooth, methodical
- 2- fighting position, but controlled
- 3- crashing, flopping over

C. Sternal phase

- 1- an organised pause
- 2- nonexisting
- 3- multiple, with struggle

D. Move to stand

- 1- methodical
- 2- an organised scramble
- 3- moves far from site
- 4- uncontrolled attempts

E. Strength

- 1- near full
- 2- mildly rubbery
- 3- dog sitting before standing
- 4- repeated attempts due to weakness

F. Number of attempts to stand (score = number)

G. Balance and coordination

- 1- solid
- 2- moderate dancing
- 3- reflex saves
- 4- careening
- 5- falls back down

H. Knuckling

- 1- none
- 2- hindlimbs only
- 3- all 4

TOTAL: _____

Descriptive recovery score*

1 = Smooth, calm and easy recovery in one attempt, no ataxia or mild ataxia of >5 min duration

A (1), B (1), C (1-2), D (1), E (1), F (1), G (1), H (1) = 8-9

2 = Calm recovery with some difficulty or weakness, 1-3 attempts, mild ataxia of 5-10 min duration

A (2), B (1), C (1-2), D (1-2), E (1-2), F (1-3), G (2), H (1) = 10-15

3 = As 2 but ataxia of >10 min duration

A (2), B (1), C (1-2), D (1-3), E (2-3), F (1-3), G (2), H (1) = 11-17

4 = Incoordinated recovery with notable difficulty and weakness, more than 3 attempts, marked ataxia, stumbling, ataxia duration of 10-20 min duration

A (3), B (1-2), C (2-3), D (3-4), E (3-4), F (3-5), G (3), H (2) = 20-26

5 = Difficult recovery with disorderly efforts and unable to stand in the first 5 attempts. Marked ataxia that can last for ≥ 20 min

A (4), B (2-3), C (2-3), D (3-4), E (4), F (5-x), G (3-5), H (2-3) = 25-31

6 = Accident

*Modified from:

Valverde, A., Gunkel, C., Doherty, T.J., Giguère, S. and Pollak, A.S. (2005) Effect of a constant rate infusion of lidocaine on the quality of recovery from sevoflurane or isoflurane general anaesthesia in horses. *Equine vet. J.* **37**, 559-564.