



Retro - Purpose of sedation/ premedication

- Facilitate induction and maintenance
- Relieve patient's anxiety and fear
- Decrease unwanted side-effects
- Relieve EMOTIONAL TENSION

Current Practice

TO-DAY'S DRUGS

Drugs for Premedication

The purpose of premedication is to facilitate the induction and maintenance of anaesthesia. This can be achieved by the administration of drugs which relieve the patient's anxiety, fear, and emotional tension, lower metabolism, reduce salivary and respiratory tract secretions, prevent undesirable autonomic reflex responses to stimuli, and decrease the unwanted side-effects of anaesthetic agents. The drugs used can be divided by their principal actions into two groups: (1) those which depress the activity of the central nervous system and thus have a sedative effect, and (2) those which act by blocking post-ganglionic parasympathetic activity and thus diminish secretions.

Many of the drugs used have, to a greater or less degree, more than one of the actions that are required for premedication. For example, most of the drugs used for sedation lower metabolism, and as a result of this anaesthesia is made more easy to manage. As well as drying up secretions the antisialogogue drugs decrease reflex autonomic activity; this is important when the subsequent anaesthetic agent includes agents like

mixture of all the purified alkaloids of opium, in the same proportions that occur naturally, and standardized to contain 50% morphine by weight. The other alkaloids in papaveretum contribute to its action to some extent, so that 20 mg. (which contains 10 mg. of morphine) has an effect equivalent to 15 mg. morphine. It is claimed that papaveretum causes less post-operative vomiting owing to the papaverine content, but otherwise its effects differ little from those of morphine.

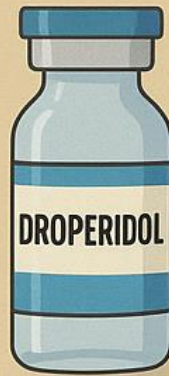
Pethidine is also frequently used for premedication. This drug produces less respiratory depression than morphine, and though it is an analgesic and hypnotic it lacks the euphoric and emotional effects of morphine. Through a direct action smooth muscle is relaxed and it is said that the incidence of cardiac arrhythmias is reduced. Pethidine has a mild antisialogogue effect, but this is not sufficient to allow the omission of atropine or hyoscine (Scopolamine) from premedication.

The majority of the other potent analgesic drugs, including **dihydromorphinone** (Dilaudid), **heroin**, **levorphan** (Dromoran), and **methadone** (Physeptone), have at one or another time been used for premedication, but none is particularly suitable. All except heroin, which should never be used for premedication since even a single dose can lead to addiction, produce in therapeutic doses the equivalent of euphoria.

Drugs for Premedication

The purpose of premedication is to facilitate the induction and maintenance of anaesthesia. This can be achieved by the administration of drugs which relieve the patient's anxiety, fear, and emotional tension, lower metabolism, reduce salivary and respiratory tract secretions, prevent undesirable autonomic reflex responses to stimuli, and decrease the unwanted side-effects of anaesthetic agents. The drugs used can be divided by their principal actions into two groups: (1) those which depress the activity of the central nervous system and thus have a sedative effect, and (2) those which act by blocking post-ganglionic parasympathetic activity and thus diminish secretions.





- 1) Thiamylal
- 2) Acepromazine
- 3) Droperidol
- 4) Alpha 2s
- 5) Ketamine
- 6) Papaveretum
- 7) Pentobarbitone
- 8) Alpha-chloralose
- 9) Opioids



Current: Purpose of premedication/sedation

Current Reasons

- Relieve anxiety
- Smooth induction, maintenance, recovery
- Reduce catecholamine release
- Reduce unwanted autonomic reflexes
- Reduce muscle tone
- Pre-emptive analgesia

Retro Reasons

- Relieve patient's anxiety and fear
- Facilitate induction and maintenance
- Relieve EMOTIONAL TENSION
- Decrease unwanted side-effects

1. Alfaxalone

- Cyclodextrin solution
- Binds to GABA_A -> neuronal hyperpolarisation-> CNS depression
- Rapid hepatic metabolism
- IM or IV



Sedative and cardiorespiratory effects of intramuscular administration of alfaxalone and butorphanol combined with acepromazine, midazolam, or dexmedetomidine in dogs

Melissa A. Murdock BVM&S, C

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The anesthetic effects of intramuscular alfaxalone in dogs premedicated with low-dose medetomidine and/or butorphanol

Jun TAMURA¹, Norihiko OYAMA¹, Tadashi

Information



Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia

Volume 44, Issue 5, September 2017, Pages 1184–1188



Short communication

Sedative and physiologic effects of low-dose intramuscular alfaxalone in dogs

Jill K. Maney

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaa.2016.11.013>

iorespiratory effects of
ollowing premedication with low-
th (medetomidine–butorphanol) in
ng/kg alfaxalone IM following
A-IM), butorphanol (0.3 mg/kg; BA-



Alfaxalone Dosing & Considerations

- 1 – 2 mg/kg IV
- Up to 5 mg/kg IM cats
- 1 – 2 mg/kg IM dogs ?
- Mild cardiovascular & respiratory depression
- Works well when combined with opioids
- Best in cats and small dogs as volume becomes too large in bigger dogs



2. Acepromazine

- Phenothiazine
- Hepatic metabolism
- IM, IV, PO



Anti-adrenergic
Anti-dopaminergic
Anti-histaminic
Anti-serotonergic
Anti-cholinergic
Anti-arrhythmic

Acepromazine Dosing

- Injectable dose: 0.01 – 0.05 mg/kg (up to 0.1) IM
- Oral dose 1 mg/kg (0.25 – 3 mg/kg)
- Combine with an opioid for better effect



Acepromazine Considerations

- Not anxiolytic, analgesic or reversible
- Consider adding a benzodiazepine if anxiolysis required
- Long duration
- Caution in patients with hepatic dysfunction



3. Trazodone

- 5HT2A antagonist and SRI
- Calming and reduced anxiety in hospitalised patients
- Metabolised by the liver
- PO



► [J Am Vet Med Assoc](#). Author manuscript; available in PMC: 2015 Aug 1.

Published in final edited form as: J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2014 Aug 1;245(3):296–301. doi: [10.2460/javma.245.3.296](#) [↗](#)

The Use of Trazodone to Facilitate Post-Surgical Confinement in Dogs

[Margaret E Gruen](#)¹, [Simon C Roe](#)¹, [Emily Griffith](#)¹, [Alexandra Hamilton](#)¹, [Barbara L Sherman](#)^{1,*}

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PMCID: PMC4414248 NIHMSID: NIHMS682922 PMID: [25029308](#)

The publisher's version of this article is available at [J Am Vet Med Assoc](#) [↗](#)

[Abstract](#)

Objective



Trazodone Doses & Considerations

- 2 – 10 mg/kg up to q8h
- Caution in patients with renal and hepatic disease
- Care in patients with glaucoma and MAOIs



4. Alpha 2 agonists

- Act centrally and peripherally at alpha 2 adrenoreceptors (pre- and post-synaptically)
- Sedative, Muscle relaxant, Anxiolytic
- Neuroprotection/ possible anticonvulsant
- Metabolised by the liver
- IM, IV, IN, OTM



Medetomidine Doses

- WIDE range
 - Dogs: 1 – 20 mcg/kg IM
 - Cats: 10 – 50 mcg/kg/IM
- Dexmedetomidine dose approximately half medetomidine dose
- Sileo – OTM dexmedetomidine for noise stimulus

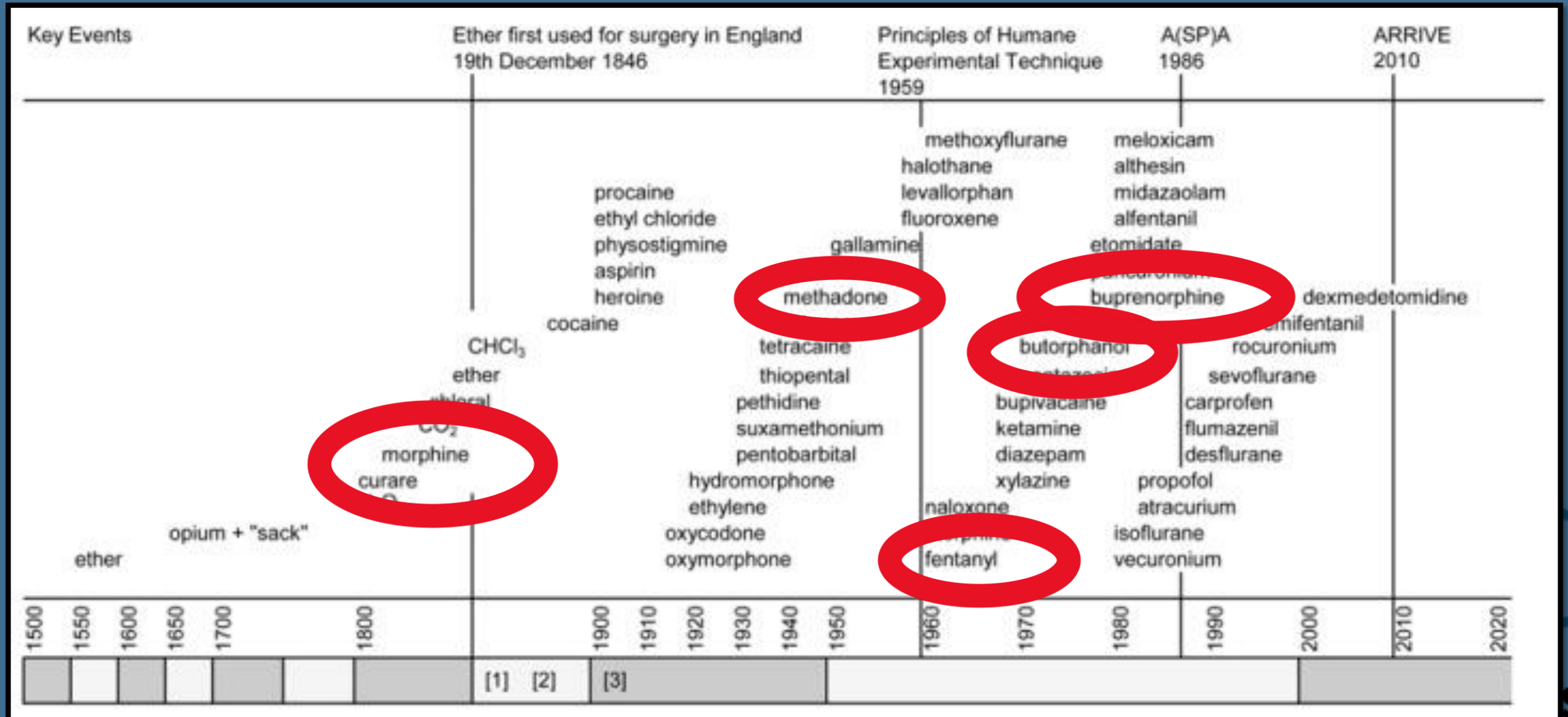


Alpha – 2 Considerations

- Hypertension (vasoconstriction) and centrally-mediated bradycardia
- Sudden, brief arousal can occur with painful stimulus
- Can be reversed



5) Opioids



Opioids

- Used as neuroleptanalgesia
- Act on various receptors
- Mainly metabolised in the liver
- IM, IV, OTM

Table 4.3 The relative activities of some of the different opioids available at the various opioid receptors.

Drug	Mu opioid receptor	Kappa opioid receptor	Delta opioid receptor
Morphine	+++	+/-	+/-
Methadone	+++	-	-
Pethidine (meperidine)	++	+/-	-
Fentanyl	+++	-	-(+)
Etorphine	+++	++	++
Buprenorphine	+ + + (partial agonist)	++ (antag?)	+/-
Butorphanol	+ + (ag/antag?)	++	-
Naloxone (antagonist)	+++	++	+

Opioid Considerations

- May cause vomiting and slow GI motility
- May cause respiratory depression if used with other respiratory depressing drugs
- May cause excitement and/or hyperthermia in cats



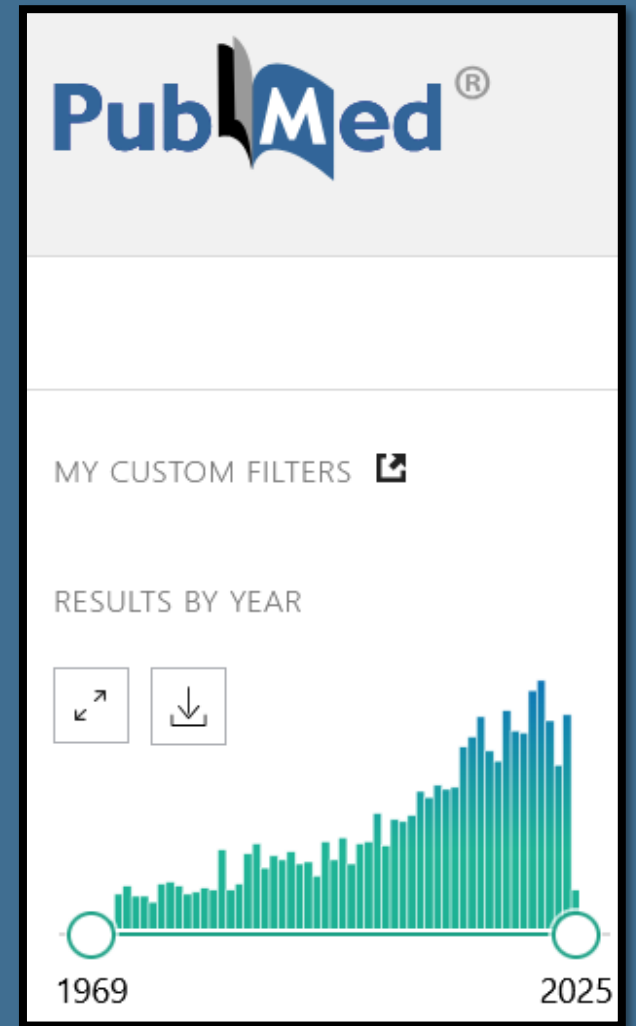
6. Ketamine

- Dissociative anaesthetic agent: functional disorganisation of the CNS
- NMDA receptor antagonism
- Sedative and analgesic
- Hepatic metabolism but recovery due to redistribution and metabolism
- IM



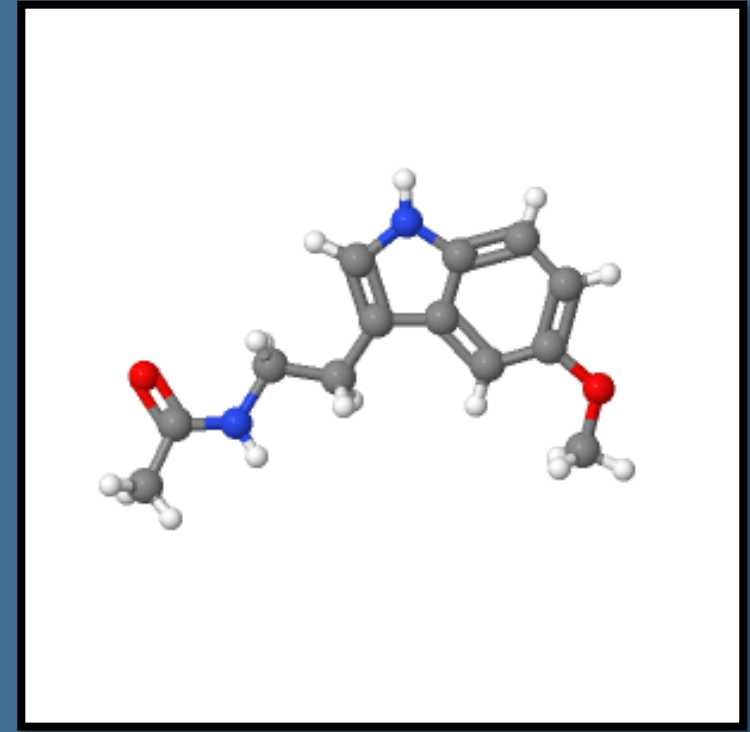
Ketamine Doses & Considerations

- 1 – 2 mg/kg IM dogs in combinations
- Up to 5 mg/kg IM for cats in combinations
- Not reversible
- Painful on injection
- Can have rough recovery



7. Melatonin

- Endogenous “sleep hormone”
- Dependent on light intensity
- Promotes sleep and inhibits wake-promoting signals
- 3 – 9 mg/Dog PO




8. Benzodiazepines

- Midazolam and diazepam
- Binds to GABA_A -> enhance the affinity of channel opening by the agonist GABA-> CNS depression
- Rapid metabolism
- IM, IV, IN, PO, Rectal



Hemodynamic Effects of Different Combinations of Midazolam and Propofol in Healthy Dogs

Mariana de Andrade Ferreira^a, Geovana Possidônio^a, Carolyn Santos^a, Ingrid Volpe Ribeiro^a, Tálita F Moreira^b, Marcel Gambin Marques P^a, Caio José Xavier Abimussi PhD^b, Beatriz Perez Floriano PhD^b  

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcam.2021.100614> 

Highlights

- This is the first study addressing hemodynamic effects of midazolam combined with different doses of propofol in dogs undergoing echocardiographic examination.
- The results of this study show interest in the effects of the excitation of dogs using a combination of midazolam and propofol intramuscularly.
- Midazolam and opioids provide a safe sedation for dogs undergoing cardiac examination.



Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia
Volume 41, Issue 1, January 2014, Pages 64-72



Research Paper

Midazolam, as a co-induction agent, has propofol sparing effects but also decreases systolic blood pressure in healthy dogs

> Vet Anaesth Analg. 2019 Jan;46(1):74-78. doi: 10.1016/j.vaa.2018.08.001. Epub 2018 Aug 30.

Use of midazolam in combination with medetomidine for premedication in healthy dogs

Delphine Le Chevallier¹, Louisa Slingsby², Jo Murrell²

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 30528670 DOI: [10.1016/j.vaa.2018.08.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaa.2018.08.001)

Objective

To evaluate the effects of the co-administration of midazolam on the induction of propofol anesthesia in healthy dogs for propofol anesthesia induction, heart rate (HR), systolic arterial pressure (SAP) and the

Benzodiazepine Doses & Considerations

- 0.1 – 0.2 mg/kg IM IV
- True sedation is minimal
- May not be not effective if patient is already anxious or aggressive
- Paradoxical excitement can occur if used alone!



9. Gabapentin

- Similar to GABA (but does not bind at these receptors)
- Modulates voltage-gated Ca $2+$ and K $+$ channels
- Used for generalised anxiety disorders
- Metabolised 40% by the liver, excreted by kidney
- PO



Gabapentin Doses

- 50 – 100 mg PER CAT PO
- 10 – 30 (50) mg/kg Dog PO



Pregabalin

- Structural analogue GABA
- Modulates voltage-gated Ca^{2+}
- Anti-seizure drug but also used for anxiety
- 5 mg/kg cat



Pregabalin Alleviates Anxiety and Fear in Cats during Transportation and Veterinary Visits—A Clinical Field Study

[Terttu Lamminen](#) ^{1,*}, [Mira Korpivaara](#) ¹, [John Aspegren](#) ¹, [Clara Palestini](#) ², [Karen L Overall](#) ³

Editor: Mandy Paterson

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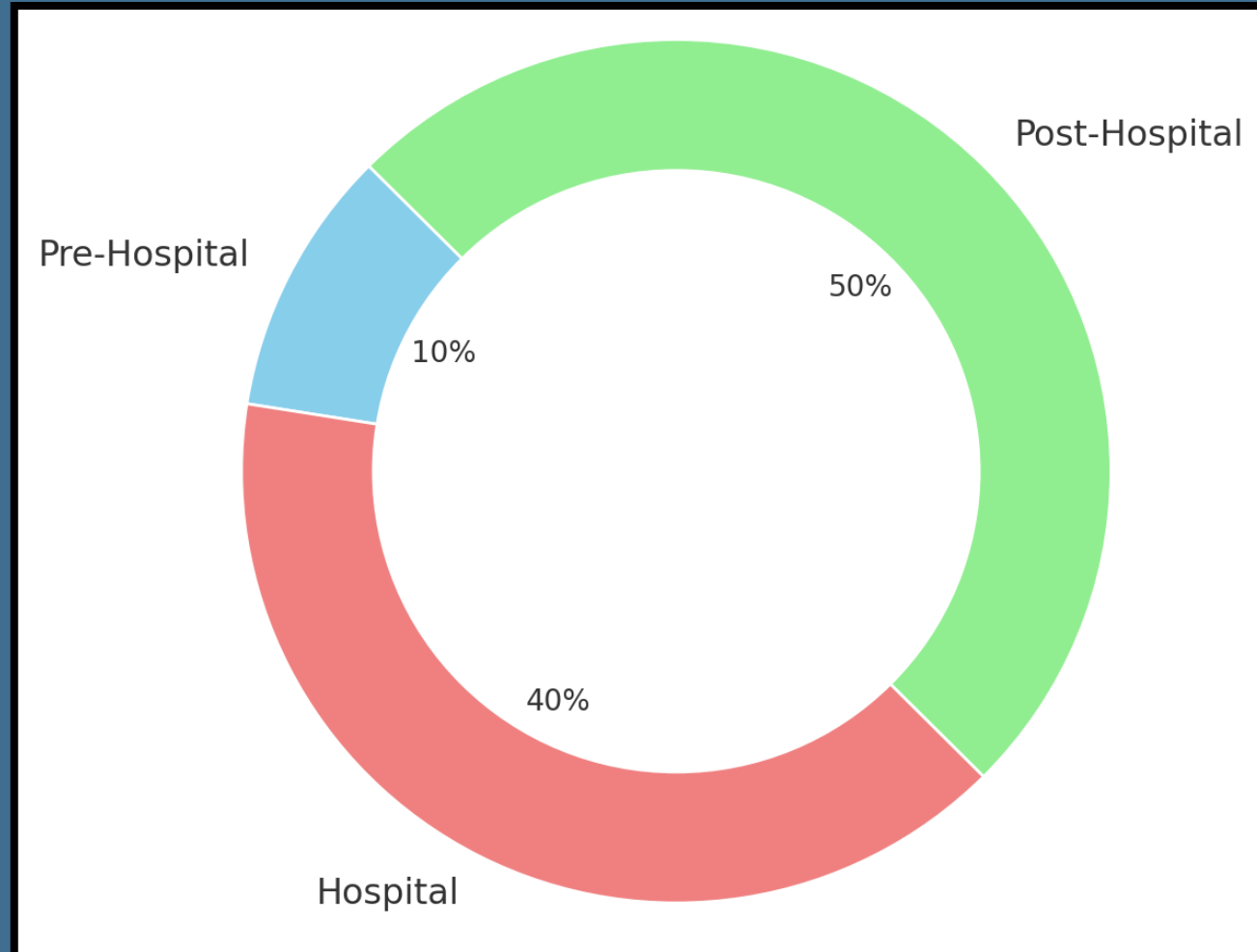
PMCID: PMC9913435 PMID: [36766260](#)

travel and veterinary visits. One sequela is inadequate veterinary care. The objective of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of a novel pregabalin 50 mg/mL oral solution in cats during transport and veterinary visits. A total of 101 cats were treated with either a flavored pregabalin oral solution at the time of transport or a placebo (n = 101) approximately 90 min before transport. The cats were then taken to a veterinary clinic. A numerical rating scale was evaluated during

transportation by the owner and during clinical examination by the veterinarian, both blinded to the treatment. In addition, to verify the owner assessment, an external expert blinded to the treatment and owner assessment evaluated the transportation video recordings using the same rating scale as the owner. Pregabalin 5 mg/kg statistically significantly decreased both travel- ($p < 0.01$) and veterinary-visit- ($p < 0.01$) related anxiety compared to the placebo. The external expert's evaluation was in agreement with the owners' assessment confirming the treatment effect during transportation ($p < 0.01$). Treatment was well tolerated with only a few cats showing transient slight incoordination and tiredness. The flavored oral solution formulation with a small dosing volume of 0.1 mL/kg was found by the owners to be user-friendly and was well-accepted by the cats. This study demonstrated that a single oral dosage of the novel pregabalin oral solution alleviates anxiety and fear related to transportation and veterinary visits in cats, thus providing practical aid for both owners and veterinarians to enable cat-friendly handling and improving the welfare of cats in situations they often perceive as very stressful.

So now we know our bunch...how do we use them

- Pre-hospital
- Hospital
- Post-hospital



Pre-hospital

- gabapentin/ pregabalin (PO)
- trazodone (PO)
- melatonin (PO)
- dexmedetomidine (Sileo) (OTM)
- acepromazine (OTM)
- benzodiazepines (PO)





TOP TIPS FOR MANAGING ANXIETY AND FEAR IN VETERINARY PATIENTS

JUNE 12, 2024 | 5 MIN

Drug	Class	Dosage
Alprazolam	Benzodiazepine	Dog: 0.02 – 0.1 mg/kg PO 30 to 60 minutes before visit Cat: 0.5 – 1 mg/CAT (NOT mg/kg) PO 1 hour before visit
Dexmedetomidine oromucosal gel	Alpha-2–adrenergic agonist	Dog: 125 micrograms/m ² (NOT micrograms/kg) OTM 30 to 60 minutes before visit
Gabapentin	Anticonvulsant; anxiolytic; neuropathic pain analgesic	Dog: 50 mg/kg PO 2 hours before visit Cat: 50 – 200 mg/CAT (NOT mg/kg) PO 2 hours before visit
Trazodone	Serotonin (5-HT _{2A}) antagonist/reuptake inhibitor	Dog: 5 – 7.5 mg/kg PO as needed 90 minutes before visit, up to 19.5 mg/kg daily Cat: 50 mg/CAT (NOT mg/kg) PO 60 to 90 minutes before visit

Chill Protocol

Drugs & Therapeutics > Behavior-Modifying Drugs

Chill Protocol to Manage Aggressive & Fearful Dogs

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Alicia Z. Karas, DVM, MS, DACVAA, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

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ARTICLE | LAST UPDATED MAY 2019 | 5 MIN READ | PEER REVIEWED

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- Gabapentin (20-25 mg/kg PO): evening before
- Gabapentin (20-25 mg/kg PO) and Melatonin PO: 1 to 2 hours prior
- Acepromazine (0.025-0.05 mg/kg OTM): 30 minutes prior



In-hospital

- Opioids (IM, IV, OTM)
- Acepromazine (IM, IV, OTM)
- Medetomidine (IM, IV, OTM)
- Alfaxalone (IM, IV)
- Ketamine (IM, IV, OTM)
- Benzodiazepines (IM, IV)





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Sedation for the painful behaviour case - dogs & cats

Updated: Aug 11, 2024

Desired Effect	Drug Options	Healthy		Examples	Compromised/Sick	
Low FAS 	Gabapentin			50–150 mg/cat PO, 20–40 mg/kg PO (dog) 2–3 hr before visit		
	Trazodone			3–7.5 mg/kg PO (dog)		
	Alpha-2 agonist			Dexmedetomidine gel OTM. Use label dose for patient size**		
Light sedation 	Opioid			Butorphanol 0.2–0.4 mg/kg IV/IM		
	Benzodiazepine			Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, IV/IM		
Moderate sedation 	Opioid			Butorphanol 0.4 mg/kg IM or Buprenorphine 0.02 mg/kg OTM (cat)		
	Tranquilizer			Acepromazine 0.01–0.03 mg/kg IM (dog)*, 0.025–0.1 mg/kg IM (cat)*		
	Benzodiazepine			Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, IV/IM		
	Alpha-2 agonist			Dexmedetomidine 3–7 µg/kg IM (dog) or 3–10 µg/kg IM (cat) or 0.04 mg/kg OTM (cats)		
Heavy sedation 	Opioid			Butorphanol 0.2–0.4 mg/kg IM		
	Benzodiazepine			Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, IV/IM		
	Alpha-2 agonist			Dexmedetomidine 7–15 µg/kg IM (dog) or 10–20 µg/kg IM (cat)		
	Neurosteroid			Alfaxalone 1–2 mg/kg IM ^s		
	Dissociative			Ketamine 1–2 mg/kg IM		

Dog calm/ relaxed/
not anxious – can
place IV?

Yes → Is it
healthy?

Yes → give
whatever you
want

No → consider
physiology

No – oh
dear → is it
healthy?

Yes – IM/ OTM
required.
Alpha2 + opioid +/-
ketamine

No/ Don't know –
IM/OTM required.
Opioid +/- alpha two
+/- ketamine

Cat calm – can
place IV?

Yes → Is it
healthy?

Yes → give
whatever you
want

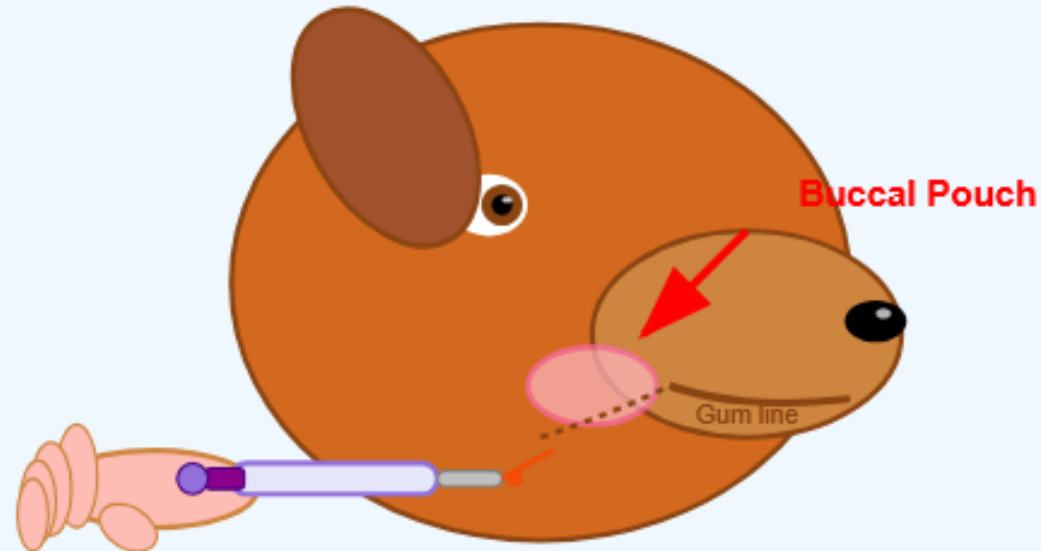
No → Consider
physiology

No – oh dear →
is it healthy?

Yes – IM required.
Alpha two +
opioid

No/ Don't know
– IM required.
Opioid +
alfaxalone

Oral Transmucosal (OTM)



Administration Technique:

1. Gently lift the dog's lip
2. Insert syringe into buccal pouch
3. Slowly dispense medication
4. Allow absorption through mucosa
5. Hold mouth closed briefly

Common OTM Medications:

- Dexmedetomidine (Sileo)
- Acepromazine
- Gabapentin gel
- Buprenorphine
- Alprazolam

Editorial Type: Pharmacology

Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic effects of oral transmucosal and intravenous administration of dexmedetomidine in dogs

Brian T. Dent DVM, Turi K. Aarnes DVM, MS, Vincent A. Wray

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Randomized Controlled Trial
doi: 10.1111/j.1467-2995.2010.00555.x.

Sedative and cardiorespiratory effects of dexmedetomidine and buprenorphine administered to cats via oral transmucosal or intramuscular routes

Luiz Cesar P Santos¹, John W Ludders, Hollis N Erb, Karen L Basher, Pati Kirch, Robin D Gleed

Affiliations + expand
PMID: 20712608 DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-2995.2010.00555.x

Abstract

Objective: To determine if buprenorphine plus dexmedetomidine administered via the oral transmucosal route produces sufficient sedation in cats so that students can insert intravenous catheters.

Study design: Prospective, randomized, blinded, clinical trial.

Animals: Eighty-seven shelter-owned female cats aged 4-48 months, weighing 1.1-4.9 kg.

Abstract

Objective: To determine if buprenorphine plus dexmedetomidine administered via the oral transmucosal route produces sufficient sedation in cats so that students can insert intravenous catheters.

Study design: Prospective, randomized, blinded, clinical trial.

Animals: Eighty-seven shelter-owned female cats aged 4-48 months, weighing 1.1-4.9 kg.

Methods: Cats were randomly allocated to two treatment groups based on route of drug administration: oral transmucosal (OTM), or intramuscular (IM). Buprenorphine (20 microg kg⁻¹) plus dexmedetomidine (20 microg kg⁻¹) were administered as pre-medicants via one of these two routes. Twenty minutes after drug administration, heart and respiratory rates, systolic arterial pressure and posture were measured and recorded. Twenty minutes after drug administration the response to clipper sound, clipping, and restraint were recorded; higher scores indicated more sedation.

There were no significant differences between the two groups prior to pre-medication. Heart rate was significantly lower 20 minutes after treatment, but it did not differ between the two groups. Twenty minutes after treatment, respiratory rate was significantly lower in the OTM group, but did not differ significantly between the two groups. Systolic arterial pressure was significantly lower in the IM group than in the OTM group, but this was not significant within or between the two groups. Scores for post-treatment sedation were significantly higher in the IM group than in the OTM group, but this was not significant within or between the two groups. Scores for post-treatment sedation were significantly higher in the IM group than in the OTM group, but this was not significant within or between the two groups.

Conclusions and clinical relevance: Administration of buprenorphine plus dexmedetomidine via the OTM route is easy to perform, but this was not significantly different from the IM route.

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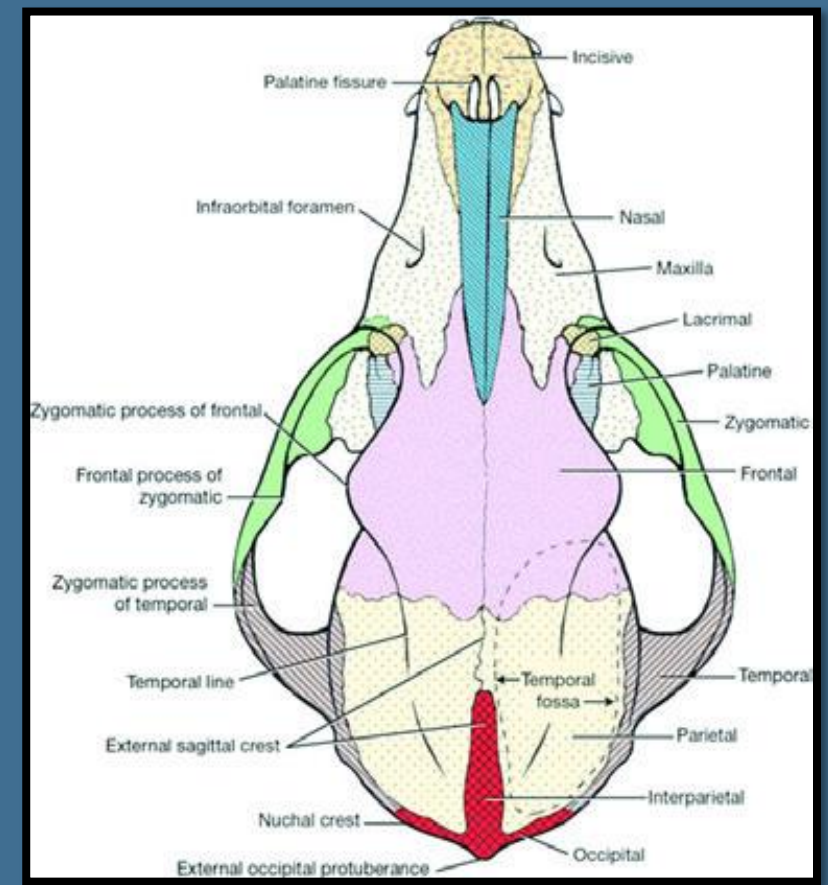
ng/mL.

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aves

GV 20

- Governing vessel 20
- Acupuncture pressure point
- Crossing point of the Governing Vessel and Bladder Channels
- Used as a sedation point, for epilepsy, sleep disorders



ORIGINAL ARTICLE | [Open Access](#) | [CC](#) [BY](#) [NC](#) [ND](#)

Comparison of sedation with dexmedetomidine/atipamezole administered subcutaneously at GV20 acupuncture point with usual routes of administration in dogs presented for orthopaedic radiographs

C. Lericquier, M. Freire, M. Llido, G. Beauchamp, X. Montasell, D. Gagnon, J. Benito [✉](#)First published: 09 August 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jsap.13668>

Preliminary results were accepted as an e-poster communication at the 30th European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS) Annual Scientific Meeting; Online, July 8 to 10, 2021 (sedation part), and 15th Southern European Veterinary Conference (SEVC); Online, October 19 to 22, 2021 (recovery).

Epub 2016 Nov 14.

Effects of dexmedetomidine administered at acupuncture point GV20 compared to intramuscular route in dogs

A Pons¹, S Canfrán², J Benito³, R Cediell-Algovia², I A Gómez de Segura²

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 27859317 DOI: [10.1111/jsap.12601](https://doi.org/10.1111/jsap.12601)

Abstract

Objective: To compare the sedative effects produced by dexmedetomidine in dogs, administered either intramuscularly or into the Governing Vessel 20 acupuncture point.**Materials and methods:** Six dogs were sedated with 125 µg/m² dexmedetomidine injected intramuscularly in the gluteal muscles or subcutaneously into the acupuncture point and in random order. Sedation and analgesia were assessed blindly before and after treatments at regular intervals for 90 minutes or until the dogs fully recovered. Duration and quality of sedation were assessed with a numerical sedation rating scale and a dynamic and interactive visual analogue scale. Analgesia was

The analgesic and sedative effects of GV20 pharmacopuncture with low-dose hydromorphone in healthy dogs undergoing ovariohysterectomy

Elizabeth M Scallan¹, Stacy L Eckman¹, Caleb D Coursey¹, Kristine C Ikels¹, Bradley T Simon¹, [✉](#)

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PMCID: PMC8439329 PMID: [34602640](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34602640/)

Abstract

This study evaluates the analgesic efficacy of low-dose hydromorphone administered via pharmacopuncture at Governing Vessel 20 (GV20) for postoperative pain management

[nature](#) > [scientific reports](#) > [articles](#) > [article](#)Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 05 February 2014

A systematic review and meta-analysis of Baihui (GV20)-based scalp acupuncture in experimental ischemic stroke

Wen-wen Wang, Cheng-long Xie, Lin Lu & Guo-qing Zheng

[Scientific Reports](#) 4, Article number: 3981 (2014) | [Cite this article](#)17k Accesses | 21 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Giving the sedation if anxious/aggressive

- Straight into consult room
- Owner can stay and hold for premed?
- Quiet room
- Lights off
- Owner can stay whilst becoming sedate
- Place catheter without moving the animal



Summary

- Consider patient
- Consider procedure
- Consider different drug options
- Consider different routes of administration