Efficacy of Detomidine Oromucosal Gel in Horses for Procedures Requiring Sedation

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Detomidine oromucosal gel was safe and effective when administered to horses for routine procedures requiring sedation. Authors’ addresses: B. W. Furlong and Associates, Oldwick, New Jersey 08858 (Gardner); Sallisaw Equine Clinic, 213 N. Shiloh St, Sallisaw, Oklahoma 74955-2402 (White); Pfizer Animal Health Veterinary Medicine Research and Development (Ramsey, Boucher, Kilgore); and Orion Corporation, Orion Pharma, Research and Development, Turku, Finland (Huhtinen); e-mail: gwhite@ipa.net. *Presenting and corresponding author. © 2010 AAEP.

1. Introduction
An oral formulation of an equine sedative that could be administered by veterinarians and prescribed for use to qualified laypersons would be a useful product. The objective of this study was to determine whether detomidine oromucosal gel is effective in providing adequate sedation and restraint to facilitate routine veterinary and husbandry procedures known to require sedation.

2. Materials & Methods
Horses in good physical condition with a history of requiring sedation or strong restraint to complete various veterinary or husbandry procedures were enrolled in the study. Eligible procedures included cleaning of prepuce, clipping of hair, foot trimming or shoeing, manual rasping of teeth, radiography, and passage of a stomach tube or endoscope. The study was blinded and placebo-controlled. The detomidine-treated horses received a sublingual dose of 0.04 mg/kg in the form of an oromucosal gel containing 7.6 mg detomidine/mL. The primary outcome measure was ability to perform the procedure successfully without further restraint. A mixed categorical model (GLIMMIX in SAS) was used to analyze data with significance set at ≤0.05.

3. Results
One hundred seventy-one horses met the protocol criteria. Test procedures were completed successfully in 76% (98 of 129) of the detomidine-treated horses versus 7% (3 of 42) for the placebo-treated group (p < 0.0005). No significant adverse events were recorded.

4. Discussion
In this field study, detomidine oromucosal gel facilitated completion of routine veterinary and husbandry procedures in horses known to require sedation for such procedures.
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Footnote

*Dormosedan Gel, Orion Corporation, Turku, Finland.