

# Comparison of intraperitoneal medetomidine and paraincisional bupivacaine on post-operative pain management of ovariohysterectomy in dogs

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## Abstract

Providing effective pain relief after surgery in veterinary medicine is a crucial aspect of ethical and clinical care, particularly during procedures like spaying. Various analgesic drugs have been used for this purpose, but the management of analgesia in different animals during and after surgery requires different strategies. In this study, the effect of medetomidine and bupivacaine with different methods of administration in ovariohysterectomy surgery was investigated in bitches. Twenty-Five native breed bitches (1-4 years, 15-25 kg) were divided into 5 groups of 5 based on the type of drug and the method of administration: control group, medetomidine IM, medetomidine IP, medetomidine IP and bupivacaine SC, and bupivacaine SC alone. In all groups, defined drugs for each group were administered at three stages: prior to the skin incision, simultaneously with ligation of the first ovarian pedicle, and before suturing the *linea alba*. Before, during and after surgery, sedation quality, pain quality, anesthesia depth, recovery quality, vital signs (body temperature, respiratory rates, cardiovascular parameters), and biochemical, parameters were measured at predetermined times. After surgery, analgesia was measured by Simple Descriptive Scores (SDS), Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), University of Melbourne Pain Scale (UMPS), and Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale-Short Form (CMPS-SF) tests. The obtained data were analyzed with SPSS software and appropriate statistical tests. The results indicated that administering the same dose of intramuscular medetomidine compared to intraperitoneal medetomidine resulted in significant differences in pain (measured by CMPS-SF and VAS test), heart rate, and cortisol levels at specific times after surgery. Administering bupivacaine alone significantly reduced surgical pain and decreased recovery time compared to administering medetomidine alone or in combination with bupivacaine. Animals receiving intraperitoneal medetomidine required a rescue dose, while no rescue dose was needed in other groups. The doses used in all groups did not disrupt the animals' physiological functions, and cardiovascular, respiratory, and rectal temperature parameters remained within the normal range. The activity of serum enzymes related to general tissue integrity also stayed within the normal range. Evaluation of pain using VAS, UMPS, and CMPS-SF methods did not show a preference for the effectiveness of administering the same dose of intraperitoneal medetomidine over intramuscular medetomidine (alone or with bupivacaine at the surgical incision) for managing pain, recovery after surgery, and physiological parameters of cardiovascular, respiratory, and rectal temperature.

**Key words:** Pain management, Ovariohysterectomy, Female dogs, Medetomidine, Bupivacaine

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