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## Veterinarni Medicina

**Three combinations of clonidine in association with tiletamine-zolazepam for anaesthesia induction in rats: evaluation of reflexes and pain sensibility**

Spinella G, Vilar JM, Anastasi C, Santana A, Prati U, Roveda L, Ricciardi G, Britti D:

Veterinarni Medicina, 57 (2012): 536-542

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The aim of this study was to assess the combination of tiletamine-zolazepam (Zoletil 20®) with three different doses of clonidine for general anaesthesia induction in rats submitted to vascular microsurgery. The evaluation of anaesthetic and analgesic effects was performed in 30 Wistar rats randomly divided into three groups and induced with Zoletil 20 [90 mg/kg Intraperitoneal (IP)] associated with three different doses of clonidine (60–90–120 µg/kg IP). Four clinical parameters were evaluated after induction: loss of righting reflex, voluntary movement, the pedal withdrawal response, and pain sensitivity tested by

pinching the tail. The combination of Zoletil with 90 and 120 µg/kg of clonidine provided a surgical anaesthesia; however, 90 µg/kg of clonidine provided the most rapid anaesthesia induction, as confirmed by data obtained by clinical evaluation of the loss of the pedal withdrawal response and the absence of the tail pinch response. The increase in dose of clonidine did not lead to a more rapid action of the  $\alpha_2$  agonist, probably due to achievement of a dose-dependent plateau.

### **Keywords:**

anaesthesia induction; clonidine; reflex test, tiletamine-zolazepam, Winstar rats

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