

## **EFFECTS OF CHLORAMPHENICOL PRETREATMENT ON XYLAZINE/KETAMINE ANAESTHESIA IN CATS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The effect of pretreatment with a single intramuscular (im) dose of chloramphenicol (10mg/ kg) on the anaesthesia induced with im injection of ketamine (25mg/kg) was investigated in five cats premedicated with im xylazine (1.0mg/kg) and atropine (0.04mg/kg) with regard to the onset of anaesthesia (OAN), duration of analgesia (DAN), sleeping time (SL T) and standing time (STT). In addition, changes in heart rate (HR), respiratory rate (RR) and rectal temperature (RT) were recorded immediately after ketamine-induced anaesthesia and at 10-min intervals over a period of 60mins. The difference in OAN between treated cats (2.8± 1.7 mins) and the control cats (1.4±0.9 min) was not significant ( $P>0.05$ ). The DAN in the treated cats (124.4±51.1 mins) and the control cats (114.4±50.9mins) were significantly different ( $P<0.05$ ). The SLT and STT were significantly different ( $P<0.05$ ) for the treated cats (181.4±79.4 mins and 12.2±7.8 min) from the control cats (168.4±67.4 mins and 12.2±7.3 mins) respectively. Also the chloramphenicol treated cats tended to show higher HR but no significant changes in the HR, RR and RT were evident when compared with the control cats.

It was therefore concluded that pretreatment with chloramphenicol somewhat prolongs the duration of anaesthesia produced by i.m injection of ketamine in xylazine pre-medicated cats, although this effect may not be of clinical concern.

### **Keywords:**

Chloramphenicol, xylazine, ketamine, anaesthesia,