Research Note: **Effects of Alfaxalone in Guinea Pigs**

Radiography is an important diagnostic tool in guinea pigs and frequently requires sedation; however, neither inhalational nor injectable anesthesia (ie, benzodiazepines, α_2 agonists, ketamine) have been shown to be optimal in terms of effectiveness, reliability, safety, and reversibility. This prospective study evaluated the use of intramuscular alfaxalone as a sedative for guinea pigs undergoing survey radiography. Thirty guinea pigs were administered alfaxalone (5 mg/kg IM), and physiologic variables were assessed. No respiratory depression or decreased temperatures were noted. Recoveries were uneventful. One disadvantage, however, was the lack of reversibility of effects, as no antagonist was available at the time of the study. Further studies are required to evaluate cardiovascular effects, use in unhealthy guinea pigs, and potential benefits of combining alfaxalone with other drugs for more invasive procedures.

Source

d'Ovidio D, Marino F, Noviello E, Lanaro E, Monticelli P, Adami C. Sedative effects of intramuscular alfaxalone in pet guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*). *Vet Anaesth Analg.* 2018;45(2):183-189.

Research Note: ***Microsporum canis* in Dermatophyte Cultures**

This observational retrospective study aimed to determine how frequently *Microsporum canis* was isolated from untreated cats with suspected skin lesions or cats being treated for dermatophytosis after 1, 2, and 3 weeks of incubation on dermatophyte culture mediums. Of 13 772 fungal cultures, 20.9% were positive for *M canis*. Samples tested positive within 14 days of culture in 98.2% of untreated cats and 96.8% of treated cats. Samples requiring more than 14 days of culture demonstrated abnormal gross morphology. The authors concluded that culture results for *M canis* may be finalized after 14 days with no growth as compared with the current standard of 21 days. This shortened culture period may improve patient quality of life and decrease costs by minimizing the isolation period for cats with suspected infection.

Source

Stuntebeck R, Moriello KA, Verbrugge M. Evaluation of incubation time for *Microsporum canis* dermatophyte cultures. *J Feline Med Surg*. 2018;20(10):997-1000.