

RESEARCH PAPER

Current attitudes regarding the use of perioperative analgesics in dogs and cats by Brazilian veterinarians

Sílvia ERS Lorena*, Stelio PL Luna*, B Duncan X Lascelles† & José E Corrente‡

*Department of Veterinary Surgery and Anesthesiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, UNESP – Univ Estadual Paulista, Botucatu, SP, Brazil

†Comparative Pain Research Laboratory & Small Animal Surgery, Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

‡Department of Biostatistics, Institute of Biosciences, UNESP – Univ Estadual Paulista, Botucatu, SP, Brazil

Correspondence: Stelio Pacca L Luna, Departamento de Cirurgia e Anestesiologia Veterinária, FMVZ, UNESP, 18607-350, Botucatu, São Paulo, Brazil. E-mail: stelio@fmvz.unesp.br.

Abstract

Objective To correlate the demographic data of Brazilian veterinarians with their use of, attitudes towards, knowledge of and preference for continuing education regarding use of analgesics in small animal practice.

Study design Prospective survey.

Methods The questionnaire was composed of sections pertaining to demographics, personal data, use of analgesics in general and specific procedures, analgesia used, and attitudes towards the assessment and relief of pain. The descriptive statistics with frequency analysis was performed using SAS for Windows 9.1.3. Chi-square for simple comparisons test was used.

Results Questionnaires were obtained from 1298 small animal veterinarians. Women and younger graduates attributed higher pain scores than men and older graduates but the frequency and duration of analgesic treatment did not differ between genders. The most commonly used opioids were tramadol (79%) and morphine (51%). NSAIDs of choice were meloxicam (81%) and ketoprofen (70%). Cats received lower pain scores for laparotomy, orchietomy and dental procedures than dogs. Practical experience (64%) and national (47%) and regional

meetings (43%) were the main sources of information for identifying and treating pain in small animals.

Conclusions Although the number of Brazilian veterinarians believed that their knowledge in the area was lower than in other countries, the focus in pain management was similar or higher than in other countries, showing a good attitude in pain relief in animals.

Keywords analgesia, analgesics, attitudes, NSAIDs, opioids.

Introduction

Hansen & Hardie (1993) published the first report on the attitude of veterinarians to the recognition and treatment of pain in small animals in the USA. Following this, several other studies looking at attitudes to analgesic provision have been published (Dohoo & Dohoo 1996a,b; Watson et al. 1996; Capner et al. 1999; Lascelles et al. 1999; Williams et al. 2005; Hewson et al. 2006; Joubert 2006; Weber et al. 2012). Several of these studies found that the veterinarians provided analgesia more readily to dogs than to cats, though there was no difference between the pain scores given by these professionals to the two species undergoing the same surgical procedures (Capner et al. 1999; Lascelles et al. 1999; Joubert 2001; Williams et al. 2005).

Several authors reported the difficulty in recognizing pain in the feline species (Watson et al. 1996; Lascelles & Waterman 1997; Lamont 2002; Robertson & Taylor 2004; Brondani et al. 2011) and this is the apparent reason for administration of analgesics in this species to be relatively low (Watson et al. 1996; Lascelles et al. 1999). The difficulty in recognizing pain, lack of knowledge of proper use of analgesics and fear of side effects of drugs were the main reasons cited for the inadequate provision of analgesia (Hugonnard et al. 2004; Robertson & Taylor 2004).

However, other studies have found almost no difference between the level of analgesic treatment for dogs and cats undergoing surgical procedures (Hewson et al. 2006). This may represent geographic differences or changing attitudes over time, or a combination of these factors.

There is no information on the status of veterinarian attitudes to the provision of analgesics to small animals in Brazil. The objectives of this study were to assess the attitudes of veterinarians regarding the evaluation and treatment of perioperative pain in pre-established surgical procedures and relate this information to the demographic profile of respondents.

Materials and methods

The Ethics Committee for Animal Experimentation of the Institution approved the study, under the protocol number 11/2007. Confidential questionnaires were distributed by mail, internet and delivered in person during the course of national events to small animal veterinarians across all regions of Brazil. A widely accessed website in Brazil advertised that the questionnaire was available online between 2007 and 2008 (www.bioethicus.com.br) and was accessible to all small animal veterinarians who were willing to participate. The questionnaire was based on previously published studies conducted in small animals (Capner et al. 1999; Lascelles et al. 1999).

The questionnaire consisted of seven parts with questions pertaining to:

- 1) Demographic data including gender, age, year of graduation, highest academic degree obtained, degrees, location and number of veterinarians and nurses working in the practice.
- 2) Drugs and procedures used regularly to provide pre and/or post-operative analgesia in their practice; the expected duration of analgesia after a single preoperative dose of opioid, non steroidal anti-

inflammatory drug (NSAID), local anesthetic, dissociative anesthetic, and techniques, including the use of local anesthetic blockade; the epidural delivery of local anesthetic drugs or opioids; and the use of homeopathy or acupuncture. In this part, the veterinarian indicated the drug or the technique employed but the specification of the technique was not mandatory.

3) The pre- and post-operative drugs used and the factors affecting the veterinarian's decision whether or not to use these drugs (potential for side effects, cost, sedation, information on toxicity and dose, requirement to keep records and analgesic efficacy). This part was composed of three tables – opioids, NSAID and steroid anti-inflammatory drugs. Open-ended questions were used to ask respondents about the potential for side effects with the different drugs.

4) Attitudes of the veterinarians towards pain relief in dogs and cats, indicating whether the respondents agreed, were indifferent or disagreed with the 11 statements.

5) Attitudes of the veterinarians about choice and frequency of use of analgesics employed for specific surgical procedures. The surgical procedures asked about in connection with dogs and cats were laparotomy, fractures, mastectomy, ovariohysterectomy, dental procedures and orchiectomy.

6) Opinion on the severity of pain in the first 12 hours after surgery for specific surgical procedures (if no pain relief was provided). In this question the numerical choices ranged from 1 (no pain) to 10 (the worst possible pain).

7) Issues relating to continuing education, such as if respondents thought that their knowledge in the area was appropriate, which forms of continuing education were most appropriate to improve knowledge, and whether the veterinarian or the technician or nurse was the main person monitoring small animals postoperatively.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were done using SAS software for Windows 9.1.3 version 6 (SAS Institute 1990), with descriptive statistics being used to analyze frequency distributions. A chi-square test was performed using a 5% level of significance, as an association test for the variables of interest. When a question was not answered or the response was ambiguous, the data were ignored. Incomplete questionnaires were discarded. The questionnaire had to include all of the demographic data and

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/10998708>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/10998708>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)