Author's Accepted Manuscript

IMMERSION ANESTHESIA WITH ALFAXALONE IN A GOLDFISH (CARASSIUS AURATUS AURATUS)

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PII: S1557-5063(17)30209-4

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1053/j.jepm.2017.08.003

Reference: JEPM745

To appear in: Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine

Cite this article as: Rocio Fernández-Parra, Thomas M. Donnelly, Charly Pignon, Adeline Noirault and Luca Zilberstein, IMMERSION ANESTHESIA WITH ALFAXALONE IN A GOLDFISH (CARASSIUS AURATUS AURATUS), *Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1053/j.jepm.2017.08.003

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CASE REPORT

Immersion Anesthesia with Alfaxalone in a Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)

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Abstract

An alfaxalone anesthesia protocol was used to perform a coeliotomy in a goldfish patient diagnosed with multiple ovarian cysts. A 7-year-old, 460g, female goldfish presented for severe coelomic distensionand anorexia. Full-body radiographic images were unremarkable, but coelomic ultrasound revealed multiple ovarian cysts. Ultrasound guided aspiration of a large cyst was performed and cytology revealed lysed leukocytes that contained numerous intracellular bacilli suggestive of septic suppurative inflammation. An exploratory coeliotomy was performed and 90 mL of semi-clear fluid was aspirated from the largest cysts. Three plastic fish tanks were prepared for induction (10 mg/L of alfaxalone), maintenance (5 mg/L alfaxalone) and recovery (no anesthetic agent). Water in the fish tanks was saturated with oxygen. The goldfish was immersed in the induction tank and once the labyrinthine-righting reflex was lost (5 minutes), the fish was placed in the maintenance tank. The goldfish was then placed on a platform and supported in a supine position on wet Perlon wool. The head of the goldfish was submerged in water while the coelomic area of the surgical field was maintained out of water. During surgery, the respiratory rate (32-53 opercular movements per minute) and heart rate (35-45 bpm) was monitored. Butorphanol (0.4 mg/kg IM) was

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