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Dexmedetomidine with Ketamine in Yellow-bellied
Sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*)

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Research**Sedation with Intracloacal Administration of Dexmedetomidine with Ketamine in Yellow-bellied Sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*)**

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Abstract

There is a paucity of published information regarding the mucosal absorption of anesthetic drugs in chelonians. The objective of this research investigation was to assess the usefulness of a dexmedetomidine and ketamine combination administered through the cloaca in a chelonian species, to provide evidence of mucosal absorption of the drugs, and suitability of this administration route. Fifteen healthy, adult captive yellow-bellied sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*) were used as subject animals. A combination of dexmedetomidine (0.2 mg/kg) with ketamine hydrochloride (10 mg/kg) combined within a single syringe was administered in the cloaca of each turtle. The respiratory rate, heart rate and depth of sedation were assessed for each animal prior to the

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