



Veterinary Analgesia Development

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Abstract:

Behavioral observation scales have been developed to monitor pain and stress in animals. Investigators have used these tools to compare the efficacy of post-surgical analgesics, develop new drugs, and to improve therapy for chronic diseases such as osteoarthritis. This review describes current progress.

Database: PubMed was searched using key words including dog, cat, pain scales, analgesia, surgery, and behavior. The search was limited to reports from 1985 to 2018. Approximately 12,800 reports were considered.

Conclusions: Behavioral scales are sensitive to moderate to severe signs of pain. Scales appear less sensitive to mild pain. Low sensitivity in screening tools increases the risk of false negative assessments. Behavioral scores lack specificity when therapeutic interventions cause side effects. Sedation and nausea, common side effects of opiate therapy, can be scored as pain. Depending on the application, behavioral observations can confound analgesia research.

Biography:

Michael Guarnieri holds a master of public health degree



from Johns Hopkins University. Louis DeTolla, VMD, MS, Ph.D., DACLAM is a board-certified laboratory animal veterinarian and scientist with doctoral degrees from Rutgers University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Publication of speakers:

1. Morbidity and mortality rates associated with serial bleeding from the superficial temporal vein in mice
2. Conflicts of Interest in the Development of Animal Drugs
3. On the Efficacy of Interventions to Change Human Behavior.

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