Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of continuous infusion of etomidate at various dose rates on adrenal function in dogs

Version: 2 Date: 5 October 2015

Reviewer: T K Aarnes

Reviewer's report:

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the effects of continuous infusion of various doses of etomidate on adrenal function in dogs. The authors did not state a hypothesis.

Comments:
General – throughout the manuscript some of your text is red and some is black.

Background
Lines 2-3: delete “requiring mechanical ventilation.”
Line 7: Change “during intubation” to “following administration.”
Line 12: Reference the statement about reversible inhibition of 11-beta-hydroxylase
Line 19: Please state a hypothesis.

Materials and methods: animals and groups
Line 6 and 7: Why was anesthesia induced with sodium pentobarbital?
Line 3: What breed?
Line 9: How were these doses chosen?

Materials and methods: medicines and instruments
Line 2: Why did you administer vecuronium?

Materials and methods: anesthetic methods
Throughout: Your units are sometimes listed as mg/kg and others at mcg kg-1 min-1. Be consistent.

Line 5:
Line 8: How did you choose a BIS range of 40-60?
Line 13: I believe kPa is the standard for this journal.
Line 15: How did you determine when vecuronium would be given? Why wasn’t this standardized? Any concerns about the potential for vecuronium affecting BIS?

Line 15: Did you monitor and maintain temperature in these dogs? Concerns about temperature affecting BIS?

Materials and methods: Observation Indexes

Please reference the method validation for the concentrations of cortisol, aldosterone, adrenaline, and noradrenaline.

Discussion

Line 4: Please reference this for the therapeutic index in dogs.

Line 6: Please reference the statement regarding etomidate side effects.

Line 30: Results in faster recovery compared with what?

References

I don’t believe your references are appropriately formatted for the journal. No bolding, no italics.

Figures:

The figures are difficult to read and don’t add more information than is available in the tables.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests