Author’s response to reviews

Title: Behavioral and Steroidogenic Pharmacology of Phenyl Ring Substituted Etomidate Analogs in Rats

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Dear Dr. Brogi:

Thank you and the reviewers for the helpful comments and suggestions. Please find our responses below. Changes in the manuscript text have been highlighted in red.

Reviewer 1

Comment 1: Provide the animal ethical committee number.

Response 1: On page 6, line 21: We have added the protocol number from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to the revised manuscript.

Comment 2: Improve the language.

Response 2: We have reviewed the manuscript text to assure clarity.

Comment 3: Concise the abstract section.

Response 3: As suggested by the reviewer, we have shortened the Abstract section.
Comment 4: Provide the proper references animal maintenance and some another experimental.

Response 4: On pages 6 and 7: As suggested by the reviewer, we have provided more details regarding animal maintenance.

Comment 5: Follow the journal standard of the references.

Response 5: The references section has been modified to include the DOI or the journal website (when the DOI is unavailable) for every reference.

Reviewer 2
No comments

Reviewer 3
Comment: In the manuscript entitled as "Behavioral and Steroidogenic Pharmacology of Phenyl Ring Substituted Etomidate Analogs in Rats", authors have defined a novel class of steroidogenic enzyme inhibitors consisting of etomidate analogs that contain bulky phenyl ring substituent groups. These compounds are devoid of sedative-hypnotic activity and inhibit stimulated plasma adrenocortical steroid concentrations but differ in their effects on stimulated plasma androgenic steroid concentrations. They have provided a proof-of-concept for the development of non-sedating etomidate analogs to treat Cushing's syndrome as well as other pathologies whose clinical courses may be improved by altering steroid biosynthesis. This manuscript is very well written and could be of interest for the readers of this journal working on Cushing's syndrome. All the experimental procedures used in this paper are appropriate and results drawn are fully supported by the data shown in the manuscript. All the figures are very well organized and clear. Therefore, I recommend accepting this manuscript as it is for publication in the journal 'BMC Pharmacology & Toxicology'.

Response: Thank you