Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Sahil Sharma

Reviewer's report:

In the manuscript entitled "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'.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Acceptable

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