

Long-term surgical anaesthesia in the domestic fowl

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An injectable anaesthesia procedure was developed in the domestic fowl. Chickens weighing from 1.75 to 2 kg were prepared for in-vivo perfusion of the kidney with glutaraldehyde/formalin.

As injectable anaesthesia allowing profound anaesthesia in the presence of massive trauma caused during preparation was needed. The sternum was reflected and the airsacs and lungs disturbed. This excluded inhalation anaesthesia.

Injection with Pentobarbital Na resulted in heavy losses.

Injection with Fenemal Na was inadequate.

Ketamine was inadequate.

Equithesin* alone did not achieve an adequate degree of surgical anaesthesia.

Equithesin and Diazepam were used together and in combination achieved a satisfactory degree of surgical anaesthesia with sufficient muscle relaxation.

No birds have been lost to date with this anaesthetic regime.

Method:

Equithesin was injected i.m. (2.75 ml/kg) into the thigh muscle. The bird was wrapped in an insulating blanket and allowed to lie quietly during induction. The operating room temperature was raised to 28°C.

After about 15–20 min. Diazepam 5 mg/ml (Valium-R.) was injected intravenously (5 mg/bird).

The birds were ready for further surgery after about 5 minutes.

* Equithesin: Pentobarbitone 9.6 g, Chloral Hydrate 42.6 g, Magnesium Sulphate 21.2 g, Propylene Glycol, Ethanol and Water to make 1 liter.

Sammendrag:

Equithesin 2.75 ml/kg intramuskulært og Diazepam 5 mg/fugl intravenøst ble benyttet som injeksjonsanestetikum hos høns. Metoden er egnet til ekstensive traumatisk kirurgi som ikke tillater inhalasjonsanestesi.

Referanser: Green Colin J. in »Animal Anaesthesia«, Laboratory Animal Handbooks 8. London Laboratory Animals Ltd. 1979, pp. 111–130.