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Evaluation of Recovery From Anesthesia in Horses After Enucleation Compared With Other Surgical Procedures

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Recovery from general anesthesia for enucleations does not carry any greater risk than that of other surgical procedures. Authors' address: Department of Clinical Studies, New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348; e-mail: libertyg@vet.upenn.edu. © 2009 AAEP.

1. Introduction

In one report, horses undergoing ocular surgeries were at increased risk of experiencing poor anesthetic recoveries; however, this has not been our impression. Our objectives were to determine the recovery scores of horses undergoing enucleations and compare them with horses undergoing other surgeries. Our hypothesis is that horses undergoing enucleations would have similar recovery scores to those undergoing other surgeries.

2. Materials and Methods

Enucleations performed between 2006 and 2008 were included. Controls were matched on age, duration of anesthesia, surgery and recovery, anesthetic risk status (ASA category), surgery date, and anesthetist. Descriptors of the horse's recovery were used to assign a recovery score from 1 to 5. Quality of match between cases and controls was evaluated for age, anesthesia, surgery, and recovery time using a Student's t-test. Recovery scores were

compared using a Mann-Whitney U test. Values of $p < 0.05$ were considered significant.

3. Results

There was no statistical difference in mean age between enucleations and controls ($p > 0.10$). There was no statistical difference between cases and controls in mean surgery time (56 and 51 min, respectively; $p > 0.10$), mean anesthesia time (103 and 102 min, respectively; $p > 0.10$), and mean recovery time (40 and 35 min, respectively; $p > 0.10$). There was no statistical difference between groups in mean recovery scores (2.4 ± 1.1 [enucleations] and 2.2 ± 1.0 [controls]; $U = 780$; $p > 0.10$).

4. Discussion

These results verify the hypothesis that horses undergoing enucleations have similar recoveries to those undergoing other surgeries. Anesthetic recovery after enucleation carries no greater risk than for other surgeries.

Research Abstract

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