

ANESTHETIC AND ANALGESIC UPDATE FOR CATS

The following medications will be reviewed:

- Alfaxan
- Propofol-28
- Simbadol
- Onsior

Drug	Dose	Notes
Alfaxan [®] (Alfaxalone)	1 – 5 mg/kg, IM or IV Induction of anesthesia: IV slowly, to effect IM Sedation option: Alfaxan 2 mg/kg in combination with an opioid	Synthetic neuroactive steroid with no glucocorticoid or mineralocorticoid effects. Rapid onset and metabolism. Chemical restraint can be achieved IM with low-dose Alfaxan combined with an opioid. Smooth induction of anesthesia. Can be used for IV maintenance of anesthesia. Recoveries characterized by paddling and muscle twitches. Pre-treating with a sedative/tranquilizer will help facilitate smoother recoveries. Author's experience: higher doses (>3 mg/kg/hr) associated with increased respiratory secretions. Alfaxan is a Schedule 4 controlled medication. Short shelf-life: US label states "use within 6 hours." Label in Australia & New Zealand allows for storage of up to 7 days if refrigerated and not contaminated.
Propofol-28 [®] (Propofol with 2% benzyl alcohol preservative)	1 – 6 mg/kg, IV	Non-barbiturate anesthetic agent propofol with extended 28 day shelf-life because of 2% benzyl alcohol. Can be used safely for induction of anesthesia and IV boluses in cats. Smooth recovery. Concern with accumulation of benzyl alcohol in cats if used multiple days in a row or as a constant rate infusion. I use Propofol-28 routinely in all my feline patients.

Drug	Dose	Notes
Simbadol [®] (FDA-approved buprenorphine injectable for cats, 1.8 mg/ml for subcutaneous injection)	Label dose: 0.24 mg/kg, SC q 24 hr for up to 3 days Author recommends reducing dose when using in combination with other perioperative analgesics ~0.18 mg/kg, SC q 24 hr	Higher concentration and 10X higher-than-IV dose associated with longer duration of analgesic action (24 hours). In author's experience, a lower Simbadol dose is recommended when used as part of multimodal analgesic plan. Side effects include appetite suppression, somnolence, hyperactivity, hypothermia. Label syringes clearly to avoid inadvertent IV administration if mistaken for 0.3 mg/ml buprenorphine injectable solution.
Onsior [®] (Robenacoxib)	1 – 2 mg/kg, PO q 24 hrs	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory approved for treatment of perioperative pain in cats for 3 days. Tablets are well tolerated. Client education and follow-up is critical to insure accurate dosing and identify potential adverse effects early.