

# Assessment of a multimodal analgesia protocol in goats undergoing claw amputation

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To evaluate the anti-nociceptive, sedative and behavioral effect of multimodal analgesic drugs in goat's undergoing unilateral claw amputation.

**Design:** A randomized experimental design.

**Animals:** Sixteen goats were randomly assigned into 4 groups (4 each).

**Procedures:** Animals used in this study were randomly assigned into 4 groups, four animals for each group. All goats were anaesthetized by intravenous regional anesthesia (IVRA) of the right forelimb cephalic vein with 2% lidocaine in a dose of 3mg/kg body weight (BW) before surgery. Administration of carprofen (50 mg/ml) at a dose 0.1 mg/kg BW took place before surgery on day 0 and was then repeated once daily for another 3 consecutive days postoperatively in groups Lidocaine (L), carprofen\_lidocaine (CL), carprofen – romifidine - lidocaine (CRL), and carprofen – romifidine - butorphanol - lidocaine (CRBL). Heart rate (HR), respiratory rate (RR), rectal temperature (RT), serum IL-6 level, sedation score, and lameness score were determined at preset time intervals and the animals' behavior was recorded.

**Results:** The mean average of HR, RR and RT in IVRA treated animals was significantly increased until the end of surgery followed by gradual decrease up to 90 min post-surgery. In CRL and CRBL it showed a significant decrease compared to controls. There was a significant decrease in lameness score in CRL and CRBL treated animals from 30 min until 2 hours and for 3 days post-surgery. After injection of romifidine it showed a significant decrease of IL-6 levels compared to lidocaine and CL treated animals.

**Conclusion and clinical relevance:** It was concluded that, the use of romifidine and butorphanol in the analgesic protocol during claw amputation in goats, alleviate pain response and potentiate the analgesic effects of IVRA. Addition of carprofen to the analgesic protocol can be used for long-term treatment of orthopedic pain in goats without complications.

**Keywords:** IVRA, Carprofen, Goats, Claw amputation, Romifidine, Butorphanol

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Lameness in dairy goats has been identified as a common welfare problem [1]; however, the diseases causing lameness are less well described than in cattle [2, 3] and sheep [4]. Generally, goat lameness problems are described as similar to those found in sheep. However, interdigital dermatitis [4, 5], foot rot [6], heel horn erosion [7], white line disease, foreign body penetrations [8] and overgrown feet [1] have all been recorded in goats.

As lameness can cause significant losses in both welfare and production it is an important topic for all livestock. Goats are generally underrepresented in scientific papers, so we often refer to information from other species or our own experience when dealing with a lame goat, whether it is an individual pet goat or a herd problem. In recent years, however, more goat specific knowledge on lameness has surfaced. It seems goat lameness is as the animal itself, seemingly similar to other species but with a wholly different character [9].

For optimal pain relief it has been recommended to combine sedation, local anesthesia, opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) [10]. The NSAID, carprofen, has recently been shown to have some efficacy in alleviating the adverse behavioral responses of lambs to mulesing [11, 12]. Intravenous regional anesthesia (IVRA) is the technique of choice for surgery of the distal bovine limb [13, 14], as it has a rapid onset, is easy to perform and more reliable than local nerve blocks [15]. IVRA is a type of local anesthesia and during multimodal pain; management may be supplemented by sedatives or the use of NSAIDs. In small ruminants, IVRA is less easily applied than in bovine, obviously because of small size [15]. IVRA is indicated in goats for the removal of interdigital cysts, interdigital papillomata, surgical treatment of wounds of the foot, lower leg amputation, and any other conditions of the distal limb requiring short surgical procedure [15].

To our knowledge, no available data about the use of carprofen for postoperative pain control during orthopedic intervention in goats. Therefore, the aim of the present study

is to evaluate the effect of multimodal analgesic protocols on cardiopulmonary and behavioral changes as well as on lameness and sedation scores and on the level of serum IL-6 and lactate in goats during unilateral claw amputation.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1. Animals and housing

Sixteen apparently healthy goats at 8-12 months of age and average body weight of 15-20 kg were used. All animals were free from concurrent diseases. All animals were kept in individual free stalls on straw bedding and were fed a diet based on hay and concentrates. No medications were given within one week before the experiment. Food was withheld for 24 hours and water was for 6 hours before surgery. This study was applied in Mansoura Veterinary Teaching Hospital of Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt.

### 2.2. Experimental design

Animals used in this study were randomly assigned into (4) groups, four animals for each group. Goats were anaesthetized by IVRA in right cephalic vein (Fig 1) with lidocaine hydrochloride (Debocaine 2%, Al- Debeiky pharmaceutical industrial co, Egypt) 2 % in a dose of 5mg/kg before applying surgery. Initial administration of carprofen (Carprofen, 50 mg/ml, Adwia co, Egypt) at a dose 0.1 mg/kg B.Wt took place before surgery on day 0 and was then repeated once daily for another 3 consecutive days post-surgery in all groups .

#### Group 1: Lidocaine (L):

Animals in this group were fixed on lateral recumbancy with the leg to be anaesthetized lower most for application of IVRA

#### Group2: Carprofen - Lidocaine (CL).

Animals in this group were intravenously (IV) received carprofen then after 15mins, the animals were cast on lateral recumbancy with the leg to be anaesthetized lower most for application of IVRA.

#### Group3: Carprofen –Romfidine - Lidocaine (CRL).

Animals in this group were received carprofen IV then after 15mins, romfidine (Sedivet 10mg/ml boehringer ingelheim, Burlington, Germany) at a dose 0.5 ml/kg then lateral recumbancy for application of (IVRA) with lidocaine hydrochloride 2%.

#### Group 4: Carprofen – Buterphenol - Romfidine – Lidocaine (CRBL).

Bucks in this group were received carprofen IV then after 15mins, romfidine at adose 0.5 ml/kg then buterphenol at adose 0.2 ml/kg then restrained into lateral recumbancy for application (IVRA) with lidocaine hydrochloride 2%

### 2.3. Monitoring

**Cardio-respiratory parameters:** Heart rate (HR) was recorded by counting the heart beats per min by auscultation. Respiratory rate (RR) by counting thoracic excursions per min and rectal temperature (RT) was recorded using a digital thermometer.

**Serum IL-6 and lactate level:** Blood samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes, and the separated sera were stored at –80 °C until assay. Interleukin-6 levels by using goat IL-6 ELISA kit (Cusabio Biotech Co., LTD, China) and Lactate (Lactate, BioSystems S.A., Spain).

**Behavioral monitoring:** Behavioral signs were recorded using video camera according to[16, 17] (Table 1).

**Sedation score:** was documented by a score system modified after [18] (Table 2).

**Lameness score:** was recorded according to[1] (Table 3).

### 2.4. Surgical approach: Digit amputation

For application of IVRA, the animal was cast on lateral recumbency with the leg to be anaesthetized lowermost. A rubber tourniquet (Esmarch rubber bandage) about 3 cm wide and 20 cm long was securely applied above the elbow joint. The medial aspect of the forearm was thoroughly shaved and disinfected. The cephalic vein was located in the middle third of the forearm where it crossed to the anterior part of the limb from the medial aspect (Figure 1A). A 3-4 ml lidocaine hydrochloride 2% was injected (Figure 1B). The skin is incised in an upside-down T pattern laterally: the longitudinal incision runs abaxially of the distal third of P1 to the coronary band, and the horizontal incision runs in the coronary band around the claw (Figure 2A). The skin flaps are undermined and reflected forwards and backwards, respectively, and proximally, and the claw is removed by disarticulating the pastern joint (Figure 2B, C). The cartilage of the distal joint surface of proximal phalanx is thoroughly curetted, and, if necessary, the interdigital fat pads are reduced to enable skin closure (Figure 2D). The skin flaps are pulled over the stump and sutures closed using simple interrupted suture pattern by silk (Figure 2E). This technique is modified according to the method described previously[19] in cattle.

### 2.5. Post-operative care

All goats received IM of cefotax (cefotaxime 50mg/kg/ twice daily, EIPICO, Egypt) for 5 days. Bandage was changed once a week and Local antiseptic dressing with dilute liquid povidone iodine was done. Skin suture was removed 10 day after healing (Figure 2F).

### 2.6. Time table

Baseline values were determined 15 min before drug administration. HR, RR and RT were measured after administration of anesthetic agent, during surgery, end of surgery and then at 15, 30, 60, 90 and 120 minutes post-operatively and at 1, 2 and 3 days postoperatively. Blood samples were drawn for cytokines and metabolic parameters measurement at regular preset time interval.

### 2.7. Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed using one-way ANOVA showed significant differences among groups. Analysis was performed with the software SPSS version 16.0 (SPSS Inc, USA). To determine which groups are different, the data were analyzed by Dunnett's test was used to compare the experimental groups. A probability value less than 0.05 ( $P < 0.05$ ) was considered significant.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1. Results of cardio-respiratory parameters

The mean average of HR in IVRA treated animals was significantly increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) until the end of surgery followed by gradual decrease up to 90 minutes post-surgery (Table 4).

In CL treated animals the mean value of HR was increased significantly followed by a gradual decreased until the end of surgery and increased up to 90 minutes post-surgery. There was a significant decrease in HR ( $p < 0.05$ ) after administration of romifidine compared to first and second group and the lowest value which recorded at the end of surgery was ( $73.75 \pm 3.5$ ; Table 4).

A significant decrease in HR ( $p < 0.05$ ) was shown after administration of buterphenol and romifidine compared to other treated group and the decreasing in HR lasted till 120 minutes post-surgery the lowest value recorded at the end of surgery was  $57.52 \pm 2.21$  (Table 4).

The mean average of RR was significantly decreased ( $p < 0.05$ ) until 30 minutes post-surgery compared to other groups and based line value the lowest value at the end of surgery was ( $15.25 \pm 2.38$ ) Romifidine and buterphenol combinations decreased RR significantly up to 30 minutes post-surgery followed by a gradual increase (Table 4).

There was no significant change in RT in IVRA treated animals. There was no significant change in RT in CL treated animals compared to base line value. There was no significant change in CRL treated animals compared with base line. There was no significant change in CRBL treated animals compared with base line (Table 4).

There was a significant increase in RT of CRBL treated animals after injection of anesthetics compared to other

group. There was a significant decrease after injection of CRBL treated goats compared to first group at 120min post-surgery ( $37.95 \pm 1.07$ ,  $38.87 \pm 1.06$ ,  $38.75 \pm 0.23$ ) respectively (Table 4).

### 3.2. Results of behavioral changes

The frequency of struggling and vocalization was higher in lidocaine treated animals compared to other group (Table 5).

Administration of romifidine results in a decreased vocalization and struggling for two hours compared to the first and second group Romifidine-Buterphenol combination decreased vocalization and struggling 2 hours compared to first and second group (Table 5).

Ear flaking and head shaking was significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) higher in IVRA and CL treated animals compared to other group (Table 5).

### 3.3. Sedation score results

There was no sedation in IVRA and CL treated animals. After injection of romifidine there was a moderate sedation lasted till 120 min post-surgery. Addition of buterphenol to the combination showed a marked sedation which also lasted till 120 min post-surgery (Table 6).

### 3.4. Results of lameness score

There was a significant increase in lameness grade in IVRA treated animals; which subsequently significantly decreased in CRL and CRBL treated animals from 30 min post-surgery until 2 hours and for 3 days post operatively. Both romifidine and buterphenol administration has sedative and analgesic effect in goats undergoing claw amputation (Table 7).

### 3.5. Results of cytokines (IL-6)

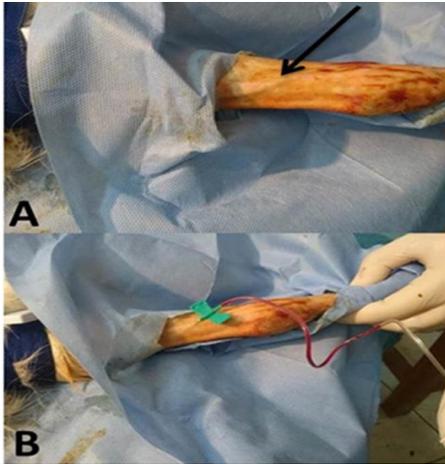
The mean average value of IL-6 Levels remained significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) lower in romifidine treated animals compared to other treated groups (Table 8).

The mean average of IL6 in IVRA treated animals was significantly increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) during surgery, 60 and 120 min post-surgery ( $7.26 \pm 0.57$ ,  $8.71 \pm 1.33$  and  $7.1 \pm 1.53$  respectively) compared to base line values ( $3.57 \pm 0.49$ ) (Table 8).

The result of IL-6 in CL treated animals was significantly increased compared to baseline values. There was a significant decreased during surgery in CRBL treated animals compared to baseline value (Table 8).. After injection of romifidine it showed a significant decreased of IL-6 ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared to lidocaine treated animals and CL treated animals. IL-6 levels remained significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) lower in CRBL treated animals compared with other groups (Table 8).

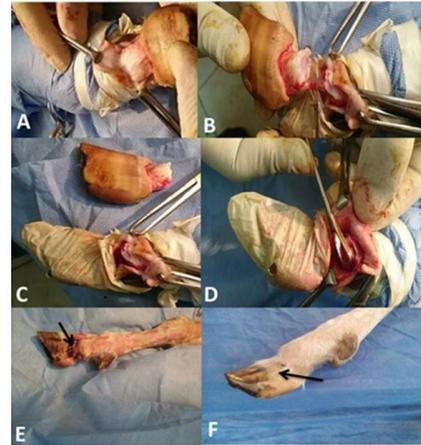
### 3.6. Results of lactate

The mean serum lactate level showed a significant increase in Lidocaine treated animals at end of surgery and 30 min P.O (57.9±24.5 and 50.95±8.4) respectively compared with base line. There was a significant increase in CL at 30 min



**Figure 1.** Shows the cephalic vein at the middle third of the forearm in goat (A), butterfly catheter application in cephalic vein (B).

p.o (44.1±0.45) compared to base line. There was a significant decreased in serum lactate in CRL and CRBL treated animals from end of surgery till 120 min P.O. (Table 9).



**Figure 2.** Shows a T shaped skin incision above the coronary band (A), the claw is removed by disarticulating the pastern joint (B, C), the cartilage of the distal joint surface of proximal phalanx is thoroughly curretted (D), the skin flaps are pulled over the stump and closed using simple interrupted suture pattern by silk (E) , removal of suture 15 days after complete wound healing (F).

**Table 1.** Description of behavioral signs recorded during the experiment according to numeric rating scale (NRS).

Behavior	Description
Struggles (score)	Slight or vigorous movement of legs, and attempt to escape 0 = no struggling 1= struggling with hind limbs 2 = struggling with hind limbs and/or front limbs 3 =struggling with the whole body
Vocalization (n/10 min)	Emission of bleats with open or closed mouth 0= none 1= once 2= several times
Ear flicking (n/10 min)	Vigorous movement of one or both of the ears independent of a head shaking 0= none 1= once 2= several times
Head shaking (n/10 min)	All exaggerated movements of the head without any discernible reason 0= none 1= once 2= several times

**Table 2.** Sedation score was documented by a score system modified after Aithal et al., (1996).

Sedation score	Clinical sedation	Description of sedation
0	No sedation	The animal appeared alert
1	Mild sedation	Slight drowsiness, but animal response to auditory stimuli
2	Moderate sedation	Dropping head, eyelid closed swaying of the body
3	Severe sedation	The animal unable to stand

**Table 3.** Lameness score definitions according to Anzuino et al., (2010).

Score	Definition
0	Goat places full weight on all four limbs, moves forward freely with an even gait
1	Goat has a definite limp on one or more legs, but bearing weight and moves forward freely
2	Goat has some difficulty moving forward, severe limp, bearing little weight on one or more legs, may be a degree of goose-stepping
3	Goat has some difficulty moving forward, non-weight bearing on one or more legs, or may 'goose-step' high or walk on the knees

**Table 4.** HR, RR and RT (Mean ± SD) changes in goats that received injection of Carprofen -Lidocaine (CL) Carprofen - romifidine- Lidocaine (CRL), Carprofen – butterphenol - Lidocaine (CBL) and Carprofen, romifidine, butterphenol, Lidocaine (CRBL) groups .

Variables	groups	Surgery				Post-surgery					
		Base line	15min After anesthesia	Start of surgery	End of surgery	30 min	60 min	120min	1 day	2 day	3 day
<b>HR (beat / min)</b>	L	106.25±13.70 <sup>a</sup>	105±12.90 <sup>a</sup>	115.5±10.87 <sup>a</sup>	138±4.89 <sup>*a</sup>	123.2±5.37 <sup>*a</sup>	104.25±3.30 <sup>a</sup>	112.5±6.45 <sup>a</sup>	119.75±3.86 <sup>a</sup>	122.75±1.5 <sup>a</sup>	122.50±4.20 <sup>a</sup>
	CL	119±1.15 <sup>a</sup>	135.5±5.74 <sup>b</sup>	128±9.52 <sup>a</sup>	121±3.82 <sup>a</sup>	129±2.94 <sup>a</sup>	128.75±5.5 <sup>b</sup>	123±6.78 <sup>a</sup>	138.25±5.3 <sup>b</sup>	96.50±6.7 <sup>*b</sup>	101.50±5.7 <sup>b</sup>
	CRL	122±2.82 <sup>a</sup>	87±5.29 <sup>*c</sup>	79.7±3.30 <sup>*b</sup>	73.75±3.5 <sup>*b</sup>	105.25±5.2 <sup>b</sup>	108.25±7.67 <sup>a</sup>	118.25±9.17 <sup>a</sup>	125.75±5.67 <sup>c</sup>	127.25±3.59 <sup>a</sup>	113.75±4.34 <sup>a</sup>
	CRBL	114±5.16 <sup>a</sup>	70.7±4.57 <sup>*c</sup>	63.2±4.27 <sup>*b</sup>	57.5±2.21 <sup>*b</sup>	61.25±3.9 <sup>*c</sup>	71.50±3 <sup>*c</sup>	76.25±2.1 <sup>*b</sup>	104.7±13.5 <sup>d</sup>	122.75±8.38 <sup>a</sup>	111.75±7.22 <sup>a</sup>
<b>RR (breath/ min)</b>	L	20±1.63 <sup>a</sup>	18±2.82 <sup>a</sup>	16.25±2.06 <sup>a</sup>	16.25±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	16.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	15.25±1.89 <sup>a</sup>	17.25±1.5 <sup>a</sup>	19.75±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	19.5±1 <sup>a</sup>	21.75±2.87 <sup>ab</sup>
	CL	21.75±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	18.25±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	20±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	18.25±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	21.25±0.95 <sup>b</sup>	16.75±1.7 <sup>ab</sup>	18.75±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	21.5±1 <sup>ab</sup>	20.75±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	18.75±1.7 <sup>a</sup>
	CRL	19.5±0.75 <sup>a</sup>	17.75±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	16.5±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	18.25±3.77 <sup>a</sup>	16.5±2.38 <sup>a</sup>	17.75±3.9 <sup>ab</sup>	18.25±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	20.75±0.95 <sup>ab</sup>	19.25±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	21.75±0.5 <sup>ab</sup>
	CRBL	23.75±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	19.5±2.08 <sup>a</sup>	19.5±1 <sup>a</sup>	17±1.41 <sup>*a</sup>	17.75±1.2 <sup>ab*</sup>	19±0.00 <sup>b</sup>	20.5±1 <sup>a</sup>	23±1.82 <sup>b</sup>	26.5±3.09 <sup>b</sup>	24.5±1 <sup>b</sup>
<b>RT (°c)</b>	L	39.37±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	39.35±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	39.35±0.05 <sup>a</sup>	39.55±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	39.25±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	39.17±0.09 <sup>a</sup>	39.17±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	38.8±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	38.85±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	39.15±0.12 <sup>a</sup>
	CL	39.12±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	39.22±0.67 <sup>a</sup>	39.37±0.51 <sup>a</sup>	39.25±0.3 <sup>a</sup>	39±0.18 <sup>a</sup>	38.95±0.19 <sup>a</sup>	37.95±1.07 <sup>b</sup>	38.85±0.4 <sup>a</sup>	38.92±0.51 <sup>a</sup>	39.05±0.23 <sup>a</sup>
	CRL	39.1±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	38.57±0.63 <sup>a</sup>	39.52±0.45 <sup>ab</sup>	39.47±0.35 <sup>a</sup>	39.12±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	39.17±0.27 <sup>a</sup>	38.47±1.06 <sup>c</sup>	39.32±0.65 <sup>a</sup>	39.2±0.47 <sup>ab</sup>	39.1±0.14 <sup>a</sup>
	CRBL	39.17±0.09 <sup>a</sup>	40.05±0.05 <sup>b</sup>	39.97±0.12 <sup>b</sup>	39.67±0.09 <sup>a</sup>	39.1±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	39.15±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	38.7±0.23 <sup>cd</sup>	38.75±0.23 <sup>a</sup>	39.62±0.09 <sup>b</sup>	39.25±0.12 <sup>a</sup>

Corresponding means with different superscripts differ significantly (P < 0.05) among groups.

Means with an asterisk (\*) differ significantly (P < 0.05) from baseline.

**Table 5.** Behavioral alterations (Mean ± SD) in goats that received injection of Carprofen -Lidocaine (CL), Carprofen romifidine- Lidocaine (CRL), Carprofen – buterphenol - Lidocaine (CBL) and Carprofen, romifidine, buterphenol, Lidocaine (CRBL) groups

Variables	Surgery				Post-surgery			
	Groups	During	End	15 min	30 min	1 h	2 h	
<b>Struggling (n / 10 min)</b>	L	2.2±.0 <sup>a</sup>	1.5±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CL	0.0±0.0 <sup>c</sup>	.55±.33 <sup>b</sup>	1.0±.44 <sup>ab</sup>	1.3±.6 <sup>ab</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CRL	.8±.3 <sup>b</sup>	.4±.3 <sup>b</sup>	.0±.0 <sup>b</sup>	.3±.3 <sup>b</sup>	1.3±.3 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CRBL	0.0±0.0 <sup>c</sup>	.67±.3 <sup>b</sup>	.0±.3 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	.3±.3 <sup>b</sup>	1.3±.66 <sup>a</sup>	
<b>Vocalization (n / 10 min)</b>	L	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CL	.33±.33 <sup>b</sup>	.66±.33 <sup>b</sup>	.66±.6 <sup>ab</sup>	.66±.6 <sup>b</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	
	CRL	.33±.33 <sup>b</sup>	.66±.33 <sup>b</sup>	.33±.33 <sup>ab</sup>	.0±.0 <sup>c</sup>	.66±.3 <sup>b</sup>	1.3±.6 <sup>ab</sup>	
	CRBL	.0±.33 <sup>b</sup>	.33±.33 <sup>b</sup>	.0±.0 <sup>b</sup>	.0±.0 <sup>c</sup>	.33±.33 <sup>b</sup>	1.3±.6 <sup>ab</sup>	
<b>Head shaking (n / 10 min)</b>	L	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CL	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CRL	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CRBL	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
<b>Ear flicking (n / 10 min)</b>	L	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.0±.0 <sup>a</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CL	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CRL	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	
	CRBL	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	

Corresponding means with different superscripts differ significantly (P < 0.05) among groups.

**Table 6.** Sedation score (Mean ± SD) in goats that received injection of Carprofen -Lidocaine (CL), Carprofen r- romifidine- Lidocaine (CRL), Carprofen – buterphenol - Lidocaine (CBL) and Carprofen, romifidine, buterphenol, Lidocaine (CRBL) groups.

Variables	groups	Base Line	After inject of anesthetic	Start of surgery	End of surgery	30 min post-surgery	60 min post-surgery	120 min post -surgery
<b>Sedation score</b>	L	0.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>
	CL	0.00 ± 0.00	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00 <sup>a</sup>
	CRL	0.00 ± 0.00	1.75 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.25 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.25 ± 0.57 <sup>b</sup>	2.00 ± 0.00 <sup>b</sup>	2.25 ± 0.50 <sup>b</sup>	1.75 ± 0.50 <sup>b</sup>
	CRBL	0.00 ± 0.00	2.25 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.75 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.75 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	2.75 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	3.00 ± 0.00 <sup>b</sup>	2.75 ± 0.50 <sup>b</sup>

Corresponding means with different superscripts differ significantly (P < 0.05) among groups.

**Table 7.** lameness score (Mean  $\pm$  SD) in goats that received injection of Carprofen -Lidocaine (CL), Carprofen r- romifidine- Lidocaine (CRL), Carprofen – buterphenol - Lidocaine (CBL) and Carprofen, romifidine, buterphenol, Lidocaine (CRBL) groups .

Variables	groups	Baseline	15 min PO	30 min PO	60 min PO	120 min PO	1 day PO	2 day PO	3day PO
Lameness score	L	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00	3.00 $\pm$ 0.81	3.25 $\pm$ 0.95 <sup>a</sup>	2.75 $\pm$ 0.50 <sup>a</sup>	3.00 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>a</sup>	.350 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>a</sup>	3.00 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>a</sup>	3.75 $\pm$ 0.95 <sup>a</sup>
	CL	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00	2.75 $\pm$ 0.50	3.00 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>a</sup>	2.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>a</sup>	2.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>a</sup>	2.25 $\pm$ 0.50 <sup>a</sup>	2.25 $\pm$ 0.50 <sup>a</sup>	2.00 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>a</sup>
	CRL	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00	2.25 $\pm$ 0.50	3.00 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>a</sup>	2.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>b</sup>	1.75 $\pm$ 0.50 <sup>b</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>b</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>b</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>b</sup>
	CRBL	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00	3.00 $\pm$ 0.81	2.50 $\pm$ 1.00 <sup>b</sup>	2.00 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>b</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>b</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>b</sup>	2.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>a</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>b</sup>

Corresponding means with different superscripts differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) among groups.

**Table 8.** Interleukin-6 changes (Mean  $\pm$  SD) in goats that received injection of Carprofen -Lidocaine (CL), Carprofen romifidine- Lidocaine (CRL), Carprofen – buterphenol - Lidocaine (CBL) and Carprofen, romifidine, buterphenol, Lidocaine (CRBL) groups.

Variables	groups	Baseline	During surgery	60 min PO	120 min PO	1 day PO	2 day PO	3 day PO
IL- 6 (pg/ml)	L	3.57 $\pm$ 0.49 <sup>a</sup>	7.26 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>*a</sup>	8.71 $\pm$ 1.33 <sup>*a</sup>	7.1 $\pm$ 1.53 <sup>*a</sup>	6.26 $\pm$ 1.31 <sup>a</sup>	5.54 $\pm$ 0.76 <sup>a</sup>	4.34 $\pm$ 0.56 <sup>a</sup>
	CL	5.64 $\pm$ 0.51 <sup>a</sup>	19.8 $\pm$ 2.48 <sup>*b</sup>	15.22 $\pm$ 2.67 <sup>*b</sup>	9.97 $\pm$ 2.69 <sup>*b</sup>	5.81 $\pm$ 0.57 <sup>a</sup>	4.88 $\pm$ 0.82 <sup>a</sup>	3.7 $\pm$ 0.97 <sup>a</sup>
	CRL	6.20 $\pm$ 1.01 <sup>a</sup>	5.18 $\pm$ 2.25 <sup>c</sup>	6.44 $\pm$ 0.34 <sup>a</sup>	6.03 $\pm$ 0.24 <sup>c</sup>	6.26 $\pm$ 0.12 <sup>a</sup>	5.77 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>a</sup>	5.89 $\pm$ 0.93 <sup>a</sup>
	CRBL	5.67 $\pm$ 0.60 <sup>a</sup>	3.6 $\pm$ 3.73 <sup>*d</sup>	5.05 $\pm$ 0.73 <sup>a</sup>	5.55 $\pm$ 0.87 <sup>dc</sup>	7.73 $\pm$ 1.17 <sup>a</sup>	8.11 $\pm$ 2.44 <sup>*b</sup>	14.29 $\pm$ 7.9 <sup>*b</sup>

Corresponding means with different superscripts differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) among groups. Means with an asterisk (\*) differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) from baseline.

**Table 9.** Serum lactate level in goats that received injection of Carprofen -Lidocaine (CL), Carprofen r- romifidine- Lidocaine (CRL), Carprofen – butterphenol - Lidocaine (CBL) Carprofen, romifidine, butterphenol, Lidocaine (CRBL) groups (Mean  $\pm$  SD).

Variable	groups	BL	During	End	30 min	60min	120 min	1 day	2day	3 day
Lactate (mg/dl)	L	25.62 $\pm$ 0.47 <sup>a</sup>	32.5 $\pm$ 0.77 <sup>a</sup>	57.9 $\pm$ 24.5 <sup>*a</sup>	50.95 $\pm$ 8.4 <sup>*a</sup>	45.52 $\pm$ 19.2 <sup>a</sup>	48.2 $\pm$ 6.24 <sup>a</sup>	50.5 $\pm$ 13.3 <sup>*a</sup>	37.1 $\pm$ 2.68 <sup>a</sup>	35.35 $\pm$ 22.4 <sup>a</sup>
	CL	26.32 $\pm$ 0.47 <sup>a</sup>	31.32 $\pm$ 3.55 <sup>a</sup>	36.87 $\pm$ 2.05 <sup>b</sup>	44.1 $\pm$ 0.45 <sup>*b</sup>	28.4 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>b</sup>	38.4 $\pm$ 6.26 <sup>b</sup>	57.37 $\pm$ 4.9 <sup>*b</sup>	37.85 $\pm$ 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	48.82 $\pm$ 6.23 <sup>*b</sup>
	CRL	79.6 $\pm$ 10.92 <sup>b</sup>	50.4 $\pm$ 11.67 <sup>b</sup>	31.6 $\pm$ 6.6 <sup>*b</sup>	43.4 $\pm$ 1.73 <sup>*b</sup>	40.1 $\pm$ 11.3 <sup>*a</sup>	35.22 $\pm$ 5.8 <sup>*b</sup>	49.85 $\pm$ 7.8 <sup>a</sup>	32.47 $\pm$ 3.6 <sup>*b</sup>	39.6 $\pm$ 19.48 <sup>*a</sup>
	CRBL	53.15 $\pm$ 1.38 <sup>c</sup>	43.7 $\pm$ 16.79 <sup>c</sup>	32.72 $\pm$ 4.89 <sup>*b</sup>	43.4 $\pm$ 1.32 <sup>b</sup>	31.9 $\pm$ 4.74 <sup>*b</sup>	32.8 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>*b</sup>	49.67 $\pm$ 4.63 <sup>a</sup>	34.5 $\pm$ 3.99 <sup>*ab</sup>	34.52 $\pm$ 10.57 <sup>*a</sup>

Corresponding means with different superscripts differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) among groups. Means with an asterisk (\*) differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) from baseline.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Lameness is substantial welfare issue in small ruminant [9]. In sheep, lameness has been associated with weight loss[1], decreased fertility and lamb growth rates[1]. In contrast, very little research has been undertaken into lameness in dairy goats. Previous observations on dairy goat farms estimated the prevalence of lameness to be between 9.1 and 19.2 % [1, 3]. In sheep, 90 % of lameness cases are caused by foot rot (*Dichelobacter nodosus*) [3]. *D. nodosus* has also been confirmed as a cause of lameness in goats [4]. However, [20] found only one of four dairy goat farms investigated to be affected by foot rot. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of IVRA in a multimodal analgesic protocol in goats undergoing digit amputation through cardiopulmonary, biochemical, metabolic, behavioral alteration, sedation score and lameness score for alleviation of pain in goats undergoing unilateral claw amputation.

In this study romifidine treated animals showed significantly reduced HR and RR as well as excellent analgesia. Additionally, IL-6 remained significantly lower in romifidine treated animals compared to other groups. The use of romifidine in the analgesic protocol during surgical intervention in cases of digit amputation in goats can alleviate surgical stress and potentiates the analgesic effects of IVRA [14, 21].

HR in IVRA treated animals showed a non-significant increase except at the end of surgery and 30min PO. This result could be attributed to the sympathetic nerve block and vasodilatation induced by the lidocaine [22, 23]. IVRA has a rapid onset to perform and more reliable compared to nerve block and is therefore the method of choice for surgery of bovine digit [14] for such reason in the present study IVRA was used for anesthesia and analgesia of distal limb in goats undergoing unilateral digit amputation.

Pre-treatment with carprofen ameliorate the physiological responses to surgical intervention, the result of present study suggest that carprofen may provide some analgesia to extensive claw surgery in goats this results agreed with [11] who suggest that carprofen may provide some analgesia to traumatic procedure in sheep

The mean HR of CL treated animals showed significant increased. This result could be attributed to the sympathetic nerve block and vasodilatation induced by the lidocaine [22, 23]. In this study, there was an initial increase of HR followed by gradual decrease in CL treated animals.

The results of HR were significantly decreased in CRBL treated animals. This reduction in HR may be resulted from cardiovascular and respiratory depressants effect of butorphenol [24]. Than CLR and this was concise with HR

significantly increased following administration of butorphenol in goats by relaxing vascular musculature [25].

A significantly decreased in HR was shown after administration of romifidine may be due to the effect of alpha-agonist which induced bradycardia which included a decrease in sympathetic outflow from the CNS, inhibition of norepinephrine release from sympathetic nerve terminals, direct depression of cardiac pacemaker and conduction tissue, increased vagal tone and a direct increase in the release of acetylcholine from parasympathetic nerves in heart [26, 27].

Intravenous injection of romifidine showed a significant reduction in RR at the end of surgery due to respiratory depression associated with alpha-2 agonists might be secondary to the CNS depression produced by alpha-2 adrenoceptor stimulation [27] or to the result of direct depression of the respiratory centers by pre-anaesthetics [25].

A significant decrease in RT was recorded in CRL treated animals at 120 p.o, this might be attributed to a decrease in the skeletal muscle tone, reduced metabolic rates and muscle relaxation, along with depression of thermoregulatory centers [28]. Alpha-2 agonists have been reported to induce prolonged depression of thermoregulation [29]. Hypothermia tends to be the most common response, particularly when opioids, lidocaine and midazolam are used [24, 30].

Interleukin-6 is secreted by a wide range of cells including immune cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells, and neurons. It is one of the most common cytokines that induces the hyperalgesia [31]. Preemptive IVRA and CL treatment has significant increase of IL-6 effect to attenuate IL-6. These results agreed with [22] who found that lidocaine does not abolish the pain associated with surgery and the strong stimulation of nociceptors during the surgical treatment leads to a direct release of cytokines into the bloodstream which subsequently triggers an endocrine stress response. [32] added that, IL6 causes production of small mediators (cyclooxygenase 2) which generates PGE2 that causes vasodilatation and enhances perception of pain. In the present study, addition of carprofen had a significant attenuation of serum IL-6 during and post-surgery in CL, CLR and CLRB groups. This may be due to decrease of inflammatory cells production that responsible for IL-6 secretion after surgical incision [31, 32].

The preemptive combination of romifidine-carprofen-butorphenol results in highest attenuation of serum IL-6 compared to the other groups. Romifidine was able to increase the ability of carprofen to inhibit prostaglandin synthesis via the blockage of cyclooxygenase and the prevention of cytokines induced hyperalgesia [33]. This result agreed with the finding of [34] who reported that stimulation of serotonergic descending inhibitory system resulted in

decreased stimulation of lymphocyte proliferation and decrease of IL-6 production and buterphenol increase time of sedation and analgesia.

In the present study, lactate level increased significantly in IVRA, CL, but tended to be higher in lidocaine treated animals. This could be attributed to stress induced by surgical intervention. A mild increase in blood lactate concentrations were reported in cattle during abdominal surgeries and were attributed to stress induced vasoconstriction and reduced tissue oxygenation[35, 36]. [35]added that, the increase in serum lactate activity may be attributed to possible muscle damage. Plasma lactate remained on average lower in bucks of CLR, CLRB, group than in IVRA groups and CL, This result agreed with[14] who reported that, plasma lactate remained on average lower in cows of the xylazine group than in controls and agreed with [17] in goats undergoing tube cystotomy.

After injection of romifidine in CRL treated animals there was a significant moderate sedative and analgesic effect this result agreed with [37] . They reported that romifidine has been used for sedation of horses, dogs, sheep and goats. In CRBL treated animals there was severe sedation and analgesia at 30 min p.o. and increase time of sedation compared with CRL, this agreed with[38] who mentioned that opioid and alpha 2- agonist agent are synergistic in terms of sedation and analgesia. Sedation in this study clearly show that goats more sensitive to alpha 2 agonist (romifidine) than in horses the drugs are usually used in doses that enable the animals to remain standing although with marked ataxia, the combination of romifidine and buterphenol in the fourth group caused longer standing, sedation and ataxia in goats [38].

There was a significant increase in lameness score in IVRA treated animals p.o. surgery from 30 min till third day. There was moderate lame in CL treated animals p.o. surgery from 30 min till third day. There was moderate lame till 60 min p.o surgery followed by mild lame till third day in CRL treated animals. In CRBL treated animals there was a moderate lameness till 60 min p.o surgery followed by mild lame till third day p.o. surgery. There was a significant decreased in degree of lame in CRL and CRBL compared with first and second group. Lameness is an expression of pain in goats subjected to claw surgery and can be semi quantitatively assessed by lameness score[9]. In carprofen treated cows, a quick reduction in lameness score can be expected after digital amputation when inflammatory affected tissue is almost completely removed.

In this study the lameness score improved after surgery careprofen treated goats. Reduction of lameness score after NSAIDs treatment have seen demonstrated in previous studies in lame cattle[39, 40].

Due to a synergism analgesic effects of local anaesthetics are prolonged when used in combination with alph2-agonist in sheep undergoing orthopaedic surgery[16]. As in other studies [16] changes in cow's behaviour such as lameness scoring, appetite and changes on pain induced behaviour changes were used to evaluate the stress and pain perceived by goats during claw amputation after romifidine pre-treatment. However, the use of behavioural parameters to assess pain and to determine the analgesic effectiveness of drugs presents a challenging task[10, 14]. In comparison to controls romifidine-buterphenol pre-treated goats exhibited in this study significantly less frequent ear flicking during the surgical intervention at the claws, lower lameness scores and longer standing periods during the first hour after claw treatment, and more frequently immediate start of feed consumption when goat arrived back in their individual free stall after claw surgery.

All these behaviour alterations may indicate less pain perception and improved well-being of goats. No group differences were found for other behaviours such as head shaking, tail wagging and vocalisation. We conclude therefore that the pre-treatment with romifidine in combination with IVRA improved and prolonged to some extent analgesia compared to IVRA alone.

There is a limitation in this study; we need to expand our research to study the effect of the used anesthetic and analgesic combinations in clinical cases with extensive claw horn lesion in goats.

### **Conclusion**

It was concluded that, carprofen analgesic and inflammatory properties may be used to complement local anesthesia (IVRA) during and after surgical intervention on the goat digit post -surgery. And its combination with buterphenol provides excellent analgesia for digit amputation in goats.

Romifidine appears to be an appropriate sedative for pain treatment in goats undergoing claw amputation and can be used as analgesic in a multimodal protocol for short term pain management during claw surgery in goats.

Further work is also required on the impact of other NSAID in combination with sedative and analgesics in goats clinically affected with extensive claw horn lesion.

### **Conflict of interest statement**

The authors declare that there is no any conflict of interest in the current research work

### **Animal ethics committee permission**

The current research work is permitted to be executed according to standards of animal Research committee in Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mansoura University.

**Authors' contributions:**

Usama fekry and Awad Rizk performed the experiment, statistical analysis, research writing, Esam Mosbah and Adel Zaghoul : revised manuscript and supervise the whole work

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