

1 **Title: The intravenous pharmacokinetics of butorphanol and detomidine**
2 **dosed in combination compared with individual dose administrations to**
3 **exercised horses**

4 Short Running Title: Pharmacokinetics of butorphanol and detomidine in horse

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17 **KEYWORDS** (6) Butorphanol, detection time, detomidine, drug-drug interactions, horse,
18 pharmacokinetics.

19 **Abstract**

20 In equine and racing practice, detomidine and butorphanol are commonly used
21 in combination for their sedative properties. The aim of the study was to
22 produce Detection Times to better inform European veterinary surgeons, so that
23 both drugs can be used appropriately under regulatory rules. Three independent
24 groups of 7, 8 and 6 horses, respectively, were given either a single intravenous
25 administration of butorphanol (100 µg/kg), a single intravenous administration
26 of detomidine (10 µg/kg) or a combination of both at 25 (butorphanol) and 10
27 (detomidine) µg/kg. Plasma and urine concentrations of butorphanol,
28 detomidine and 3-hydroxydetomidine at predetermined time points were
29 measured by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS).
30 The intravenous pharmacokinetics of butorphanol dosed individually compared
31 with co-administration with detomidine had approximately a two-fold larger
32 clearance (646 ± 137 versus 380 ± 86 ml/hr/kg) but similar terminal half-life
33 (5.21 ± 1.56 versus 5.43 ± 0.44 hr). Pseudo-steady-state urine to plasma
34 butorphanol concentration ratios were 730 and 560, respectively. The
35 intravenous pharmacokinetics of detomidine dosed as a single administration
36 compared with co-administration with butorphanol had similar clearance (3278

37 ± 1412 versus 2519 ± 630 ml/hr/kg) but a slightly shorter terminal half-life (0.57
38 ± 0.06 versus 0.70 ± 0.11 hr). Pseudo-steady-state urine to plasma detomidine
39 concentration ratios are 4 and 8, respectively. The 3-hydroxy metabolite of
40 detomidine was detected for at least 35 hours in urine from both the single and
41 co-administrations. Detection Times of 72 and 48 hours are recommended for
42 the control of butorphanol and detomidine, respectively, in horseracing and
43 equestrian competitions.

44

45 **Introduction**

46 The combination of detomidine and butorphanol is frequently used in clinical
47 equine practice to provide a degree of systemic analgesia alongside sedation for
48 minor procedures, such as wound repair or dental work. Whilst they may also
49 be used singly, the combination affords better predictability and efficacy with
50 lower doses of butorphanol and potentiation of the sedative effect of detomidine
51 alone - all in the interests of horse, veterinary surgeon and owner. The use of
52 agents, such as α_2 agonist sedatives and opioid analgesics, is restricted under the
53 rules of international horseracing in order that horses race free from the effects
54 of medication. However, use of therapeutic medications to treat racehorses out
55 of competition is legitimate. Therefore, to deal with the race-day scenario
56 where a horse competes having received medication in its training programme,
57 the term “free from the effects of medication” has to be defined. One such
58 definition can be a drug concentration in blood plasma that is less than the
59 concentration required for a significant therapeutic effect. Toutain & Lassourd,
60 2002 proposed an approach based upon the above definition that also takes into
61 account variation in both pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD)
62 parameters for a population of horses. An estimate of the irrelevant plasma
63 concentration (IPC) is based upon a pharmacologically effective plasma drug
64 concentration divided by an appropriate safety factor. Also, with knowledge of
65 urine PK parameters an irrelevant urine concentration (IUC) can also be
66 estimated. The IPC and IUC can be used for the purpose of deriving drug
67 screening limits, which in turn, can be used in conjunction with drug
68 elimination profiles to obtain appropriate detection times (DT) for the matrices
69 concerned. The DT is the time post last therapeutic administration when the
70 plasma and urine drug concentrations for all horses in the study drop below the
71 IPC and IUC.

72 Detomidine is an α_2 -agonist, used as a sedative primarily in horses, and is
73 usually available as the salt detomidine hydrochloride (Elfenbein et al., 2009).
74 Machnik et al., 2006 described an intravenous (IV) PK study of detomidine
75 hydrochloride and its metabolites 3-hydroxydetomidine and 3-
76 carboxydetomidine at a dose of $20 \mu\text{g/kg}$ in ten horses for the purposes of

77 developing a detection time. Grimsrud et al., 2009 published a two way cross
78 over study that investigated the PK of detomidine and its metabolites from both
79 IV and intramuscular (IM) administrations at a dose of 30 µg/kg in eight horses.
80 Hubbell et al., 2009 reported the effect of the timing of the administration of
81 detomidine relative to physical exertion by administering the drug IV at a dose
82 of 40 µg/kg either at rest or one minute after exercising on a treadmill.

83 Butorphanol is a synthetic opioid analgesic and is used for pain relief in horses.
84 It is administered either IM or IV and is also commonly paired with sedatives
85 such as detomidine, to provide analgesia in addition to sedation during
86 veterinary procedures. Hannan et al., 2004 described an IV PK study of
87 butorphanol tartrate at therapeutic dose (100 µg/kg) in 6 horses and this was
88 followed by Sellon et al., 2008 two-way cross-over study of the
89 pharmacokinetics of butorphanol after IV and IM administration (80 µg/kg) in
90 six horses. Arguedas et al., 2008 reported the PK and physiological/behavioural
91 effects of butorphanol after IV and IM administration to six foals aged between
92 3 and 8 days. More recently, Knych et al., 2012 reported on the PK/PD of
93 butorphanol following intravenous administration to the horse utilising a highly
94 sensitive liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS) assay.

95 Although the individual PK of butorphanol and detomidine have been studied
96 extensively there is no reported PK for the intravenous PK of butorphanol and
97 detomidine administered in combination. The purpose of the study presented
98 herein was to determine the plasma and urine PK of detomidine and
99 butorphanol co-administered using a highly sensitive LC-MS/MS method and
100 compare to the PK of individual IV administrations of butorphanol and
101 detomidine at their respective clinical doses in the horse. Furthermore, this
102 study will give guidance on the withdrawal time of butorphanol and detomidine
103 either dosed individually or in combination prior to competition for equestrian
104 events and horseracing.

105 **Materials and Methods**

106 **Horses**

107 Seven healthy Thoroughbred geldings aged 4-10 years (mean bodyweight 504
108 kg) were used for the individual administered butorphanol tartrate study carried
109 out at Ballybrown Equine Clinic, Calrina, Limerick, Ireland. Eight healthy
110 Standardbred geldings/mares aged 6-16 years (mean bodyweight 638 kg) were
111 used for the individual administered detomidine hydrochloride study carried out
112 at the Institute of Biochemistry, Cologne, Germany. Six healthy Thoroughbred
113 geldings aged 4-8 years (mean bodyweight 504 kg) were used for the co-
114 administration of butorphanol tartrate and detomidine hydrochloride study

115 carried out at the British Horseracing Authority's Centre for Racehorse Studies,
116 Newmarket, UK.

117

118 Drug administration and sampling

119 All administration and sampling studies were carried out with ethical approval
120 from the country specific animal research authority. A 14 gauge catheter was
121 placed in the left external jugular vein for sampling and the drug administered
122 into the right jugular vein. Drug doses for the different studies were; 100 and 10
123 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ for the individual administrations of butorphanol and detomidine
124 respectively, and 25 and 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ for the combination administration of
125 butorphanol and detomidine, respectively. For the combination study
126 detomidine hydrochloride was given 5 minutes after butorphanol tartrate
127 administration.

128 Pre-dose blood (10 mL) and urine (20 mL) were collected as control samples.
129 Post dose blood (10 mL) and urine (20 mL) were collected at decreasing
130 frequencies as described in Supplementary Tables 1-3. Catheters were removed
131 following collection of the 24 h post dose blood sample and the remaining
132 samples collected by direct venepuncture. All urine samples were obtained
133 using the free catch method. Blood was centrifuged for 10 minutes and plasma
134 stored at -20°C until analysis. Urine was frozen immediately and stored at -20°C
135 and centrifuged post thaw prior to analysis.

136 Sample Bioanalysis:

137 Samples obtained following administration of butorphanol, detomidine and
138 butorphanol/detomidine were analysed, respectively at: BHP Racing Laboratory,
139 Limerick, Ireland, the Institute of Biochemistry, Cologne, Germany and LGC,
140 Fordham, UK. The analytical methods were validated to ensure suitable precision
141 and accuracy, lower limit of quantification (LLOQ), linearity, calibration range
142 and selectivity (see results section). Supplementary Tables 4 and 5 detail the
143 sample preparation/extraction and instrumental conditions respectively that were
144 used by each laboratory. In addition to concentrations of 'parent' detomidine and
145 butorphanol in plasma and urine, concentrations of 3-hydroxydetomidine were
146 also measured since urinary concentrations of this metabolite were more
147 abundant than parent drug; this making it a more suitable target analyte for any
148 subsequently applied routine drug screening procedures (Machnik et al., 2006).
149 Detomidine is also metabolised to 3-carboxydetomidine in the horse. However,
150 this metabolite was not chosen for quantification since its chemical properties
151 make it potentially less suitable for inclusion in subsequent routine drug screening
152 procedures that may differ between laboratories.

153 Pharmacokinetic Analysis

154 Pharmacokinetic analyses were conducted using non-compartmental (NCA) and
155 non-linear mixed effects methods (NLME) with Phoenix WinNonlin 8.1
156 (Pharsight Corporation, Cary, NC). The 2-stage NCA approach firstly involved
157 the estimation of clearance (CL), terminal volume of distribution (V_{d_z}), half-life
158 ($T_{1/2}$), mean residence time (MRT) and steady-state volume of distribution (V_{ss})
159 for butorphanol and detomidine. Secondly, statistical t-tests were performed on
160 the log transformed pharmacokinetic parameters for (i) butorphanol dosed
161 individually versus in combination with detomidine and (ii) detomidine dosed
162 individually versus in combination with butorphanol to determine any
163 differences. Compartmental NLME PK models were applied to the plasma
164 concentration data including below the limit of quantification (BLQ) values.
165 Residual error was modelled on a proportional error model. An exponential
166 random effect model was chosen to describe inter-individual variability e.g.
167 parameter = typical parameter * $\exp^{(\text{eta})}$. A categorical covariate for individual
168 versus combination administration was implemented on the model parameters
169 in a multiplicative exponential way. The model analysis started from the basic
170 compartmental models without the covariate. Next, the contribution of the
171 covariate to the PK parameters was assessed by a reduction in the objective
172 function using stepwise forward inclusion. Selection of the best model was
173 based on the lowest value of the Akaike and Bayesian Information Criteria (AIC
174 and BIC), chi-square p-value based on the likelihood ratio test, visual inspection
175 of the population predicted concentration versus the observed concentrations
176 and the resulting conditional weighted residual errors. Finally, the best model
177 was checked for robustness using a bootstrap resampling method. The effective
178 plasma concentration (EPC) and irrelevant plasma and urine (IPC and IUC)
179 were estimated using the Toutain and Lassourd, 2002 methodology. Briefly, the
180 EPC was estimated from the dose divided by the mean plasma clearance over a
181 24 hour period. The IPC was determined by dividing the EPC by a factor of 500
182 and the IUC determined by multiplying the IPC by the pseudo steady-state ratio
183 of urine to plasma concentration (R_{ss}). The detection time was determined by
184 the time post dose where all horses had concentrations below the IPC and IUC.
185 Montecarlo simulations were used to determine a 95%/95% tolerance interval
186 for a withdrawal time.

187 **Results**

188 Sample Bioanalysis

189 Following validation, the analytical methods were deemed suitable for
190 application to the study samples. Specifically, inter- and intra-batch precision
191 (% coefficient of variation) and accuracy (% relative error) were within 20%

192 (25% at the LLOQ), linearity of dilution (% relative error and % coefficient of
193 variation) was within 20% and no significant matrix suppression or
194 interferences were observed. Supplementary Table 6 summarises the resulting
195 calibration ranges, LLOQs and sample dilution ranges that were validated for
196 each method. LLOQs (LOD) for butorphanol and detomidine in plasma and
197 urine were 10 (2) and 100 (10) pg/ml, respectively.

198 Intravenous plasma and urine pharmacokinetics for butorphanol tartrate (100
199 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) dosed individually

200 The plasma and urine PK profiles for butorphanol tartrate dosed at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ as
201 a single IV administration are displayed in Figures 1 and 2, respectively, as red
202 symbols and connecting dashed lines. The plasma decay curves appear to have
203 three phases of decline entering into the third phase at approximately 5 hours.
204 The urine PK curves display a rapid increase followed by single phase decay.
205 The ratio of urine to plasma concentration at pseudo steady-state (R_{ss}) is
206 approximately 730.

207 Intravenous plasma and urine pharmacokinetics for butorphanol tartrate (25
208 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) co-administered with 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ detomidine hydrochloride

209 The plasma and urine PK profiles for butorphanol tartrate dosed at 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in
210 combination with 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ detomidine hydrochloride as an IV administration
211 are displayed in Figures 1 and 2, respectively, as black symbols and solid
212 connecting lines. The plasma decay curves appear to have two phases of decline
213 entering into the second phase at approximately 3 hours. The urine PK curves
214 display a rapid increase followed by single phase decay. The ratio of urine to
215 plasma concentration at pseudo steady-state (R_{ss}) is approximately 560.

216 Butorphanol Plasma PK Analysis

217 Table 1 displays the average plasma NCA PK parameters with standard
218 deviations computed from the PK profiles and suggests that in this study
219 butorphanol co-administered with detomidine has a statistically lower clearance
220 ($p < 0.05$) and longer mean residence time (MRT) ($p < 0.05$) when compared to
221 butorphanol dosed on its own at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. However, there was no significant
222 difference between terminal half-life or steady-state volume of distribution
223 (V_{ss}) which are approximately 5 hours and 1 L/kg in both cases, respectively.

224 The most parsimonious NLME model obtained was a 3 compartment model,
225 random effects included on all parameters with partial correlation (V_1, CL_1, V_3
226 and CL_2, V_2) with the covariate implemented on the parameters clearance from
227 the central compartment (CL_1) and distribution clearance to and from the third

228 compartment (CL₃). The influence of the covariate for individual versus
229 combination administration on CL₁ and CL₃ are as follows:

$$230 \text{ CL}_1 = \text{Typical Value} * \exp^{(-0.666 * (\text{administration}=1))} * \exp^{(\text{CL}_1 \text{ eta})}$$

$$231 \text{ CL}_3 = \text{Typical Value} * \exp^{(-2.16 * (\text{administration}=1))} * \exp^{(\text{CL}_3 \text{ eta})}$$

232 Where the Typical Value (TV) is the population fixed effect value for the
233 parameter and administration = 1 refers to the case for combination
234 administration.

235 Table 2 shows the outputted PK parameters for the most parsimonious model
236 which were encompassed by the 2.5 and 97.5% confidence intervals of the
237 bootstrap resampling analysis. Clearance values were similar between the NCA
238 and NLME approaches for both combination and individual administrations.

239 Butorphanol Irrelevant Plasma and Urine Concentration (IPC and IUC)

240 Estimated EPC and IPC values for combination administration (2,692-2,741
241 pg/ml and 5-6 pg/ml respectively) were approximately half that for individual
242 administration (5,995-6,450 pg/ml and 12-13 pg/ml respectively) see
243 Supplementary Table 7. Plasma DTs were consistent between combination (>47
244 hours) and individual administration (49 hours) although no definitive value
245 could be given for the combination administration due to the IPC being below
246 the LLOQ. Urine DT for individual administration (57 hours) was similar to
247 combination administration (50 hours).

248 Intravenous plasma and urine pharmacokinetics for detomidine hydrochloride 249 (10 µg/kg)

250 The plasma and urine PK profiles for detomidine hydrochloride dosed at 10
251 µg/kg as a single IV administration are displayed in Figures 3 and 4,
252 respectively, as red symbols and dashed connecting lines. The plasma decay
253 curves appear to follow a single exponential decay. The urine PK curves display
254 only a few time points due to low concentrations of detomidine. The ratio of
255 urine to plasma concentration over the 2 to 6 hour range is approximately 4.

256 Intravenous plasma and urine pharmacokinetics for detomidine hydrochloride 257 (10 µg/kg) co-administered with 25 µg/kg butorphanol tartrate

258 The plasma and urine PK profiles for detomidine hydrochloride dosed at 10
259 µg/kg in combination with 25 µg/kg butorphanol tartrate as an IV
260 administration are displayed in Figures 3 and 4, respectively, as black symbols
261 and solid connecting lines. The plasma decay curves appear to have two phases

262 of decline, however, the first phase is not explicit. The urine PK curves display
263 limited time points due to low concentrations of detomidine. The ratio of urine
264 to plasma concentration over these time points is approximately 8.

265 Detomidine Plasma PK Analysis

266 Table 3 displays the average NCA PK parameters with standard deviations and
267 suggests in this study that detomidine co-administered with butorphanol has a
268 statistically longer half-life ($p < 0.05$) but statistically shorter MRT ($p < 0.05$)
269 when compared to detomidine dosed on its own. However, there is no
270 significant difference for the parameters clearance and V_{ss} between single and
271 co-administration of detomidine. The most parsimonious NLME model
272 obtained was a simple 1 compartment model, random effects included on
273 clearance only but not volume of distribution and no significant effect of the
274 covariate i.e. individual versus combination dosing. Table 4 shows the outputted
275 PK parameters for the most parsimonious model which were encompassed by
276 the 2.5 and 97.5% confidence intervals of the bootstrap resampling analysis.
277 Clearance values were similar between the NCA and NLME approaches for
278 both combination and individual administrations.

279 Detomidine Irrelevant Plasma and Urine Concentration (IPC and IUC)

280 Estimated EPC and IPC values for individual administration (127-132 pg/ml
281 and 0.25-0.26 pg/ml respectively) and combination administration (128-165
282 pg/ml and 0.27-0.33 pg/ml respectively) were similar (see Supplementary Table
283 8). The estimated IPC values are sub pg/ml and therefore plasma DT could not
284 be confirmed; > 4 hours for individual administration and > 9 hours for
285 combination administration. Urine DT for individual administration could not
286 be confirmed (> 4 hours), however, a urine DT of 11 hours was confirmed for
287 the combination administration.

288 Plasma and urine pharmacokinetic profiles for 3-hydroxydetomidine resulting 289 from the metabolism of detomidine hydrochloride

290 The plasma and urine PK profiles for the metabolite 3-hydroxydetomidine are
291 displayed in Figures 5 and 6. The plasma profiles are characterised by an initial
292 increase followed by a two phase decline and the concentration of the
293 metabolite from the single administration of detomidine appears to be higher
294 than the concentrations resulting from the combination with butorphanol. The
295 urine profiles are characterised by a slow increase in metabolite leading to a flat
296 phase followed by a single phase of decline. The urine concentrations of
297 metabolite from the single administration of detomidine initially appear to be
298 lower than the urine concentrations resulting from the combination with
299 butorphanol, however, after 20 hours post dose the concentrations are similar.

300 **Discussion**

301 The analytical methods applied in the current study are significantly more
302 sensitive than those previously applied for determining the disposition of
303 detomidine and butorphanol in the horse. The LLOQs (supplementary Table 6)
304 for butorphanol, detomidine and 3-hydroxydetomidine in plasma from the
305 current study range between 5 and 10 pg/ml, which are significantly lower than
306 previously reported. The LLOQs (supplementary Table 6) for butorphanol,
307 detomidine and 3-hydroxydetomidine in urine from the current study range
308 between 10 and 100 pg/ml. Compared to plasma, there are fewer existing
309 reports that measure the concentrations of these analytes in urine. However, the
310 urine LLOQs for the detomidine derived analytes in the current study are at
311 least 100-fold lower than reported previously (Machnik et al., 2006). The
312 significantly enhanced analytical sensitivity provided by the methods applied
313 herein permits a lengthened window of detection for all of the analytes. In turn,
314 it is anticipated that this should permit a more accurate assessment of the PK
315 disposition of the drugs at the later time points. Furthermore, the concurrent
316 measurement of plasma and urine concentrations allows for the calculation of
317 plasma to urine drug ratios, which enables urinary drug concentrations to be
318 used as surrogates for plasma concentrations when regulating the use of these
319 medications.

320 Ideally a three-way cross over study in the same horses should be carried out in
321 order to compare the PK between butorphanol and detomidine single
322 administrations and their co-administration. This would be a very expensive
323 study for any one research centre and there would likely be ethical issues arising
324 from multiple administration of this nature to the same animal in the timescales
325 needed to provide scientifically robust data. A collaboration was therefore put in
326 place via the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC) to
327 combine data from three separate studies. Although this is not a cross over study
328 it does allow the finding of any gross changes in the PK between single
329 administration and co-administration.

330 Both the NCA and NMLE approaches in the herein study suggest that the
331 clearance of butorphanol in combination with detomidine is approximately half
332 that for an individual butorphanol administration. This is further supported by
333 the Knych et al., 2012 study where the clearance for butorphanol dosed
334 individually was estimated to be 690 ± 150 ml/hour/kg i.e. approximately twice
335 that of the combination clearance. However, there was no significant difference

336 in the butorphanol terminal half-lives which were superimposable (Figures 1
337 and 2) and suggests that the terminal half-life is influenced by a physiological
338 compartment in the horse that can be saturated and represents only a small
339 percentage of the area under the plasma curve (AUC). Despite the butorphanol
340 dose administration being four times greater for a single administration
341 compared to the clinical dose when co-dosed with detomidine the difference in
342 AUC was only 2 fold. This pharmacokinetic advantage probably contributes to
343 the lower dose required for butorphanol to be efficacious in combination with
344 the alpha-2-agonist.

345 The Toutain and Lassourd (2002) methodology estimates an irrelevant plasma
346 concentration (IPC) for a drug using both the IV therapeutic dose and clearance
347 when dosed individually. The IPC for butorphanol dosed in combination with
348 the alpha-2-agonist is approximately 2 fold lower than that for butorphanol
349 dosed on its own because of differences in both dose and clearance. While the
350 plasma DT can be confirmed for butorphanol dosed individually (51 hours) it
351 cannot be confirmed for combination administration (>47 hours) due to the IPC
352 being below the LLOQ. However, if a plasma screening limit can be set at 10
353 pg/ml based on risk management then a withdrawal time can be estimated for
354 both butorphanol dosed individually or in combination with detomidine using
355 the NLME model as the model includes BLQ data. A withdrawal time of 72
356 hours was estimated for a screening limit of 10 pg/ml based upon the predicted
357 tolerance interval representing 95% confidence of the 95th percentile using
358 montecarlo simulation.

359 For the purposes of detecting butorphanol in horse, analysis in urine gives
360 concentrations that are 730 and 560 times higher than the corresponding
361 concentrations in plasma at pseudo steady-state (R_{ss}) for administration of
362 butorphanol alone and co-administered, respectively. This makes urine a very
363 good matrix for butorphanol screening with similar DT but a 3 fold difference
364 in the IUCs for individual administration and co-administration with
365 detomidine. Pragmatically only one screening limit can be used to control for
366 butorphanol administration, fortunately, the use of 3 ng/ml as a urine screening
367 limit gives the same detection times as determined in Supplementary Table 7.
368 Therefore a detection time of 72 hours will comfortably control for butorphanol
369 administration either individually or in combination with detomidine.

370 Butorphanol appears to have no significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of
371 detomidine. Whilst there is a statistically shorter plasma half-life for detomidine

372 dosed on its own at 10 µg/kg compared with detomidine dosed with 25 µg/kg
373 butorphanol there is no statistical difference between the clearance values.
374 Furthermore, the MRT for detomidine single administration is statistically
375 longer compared to the detomidine combination which is inconsistent with an
376 inhibitory drug-drug interaction. This is supported by the NMLE model where
377 the most parsimonious model did not include the covariate for individual versus
378 combination administration.

379 Based upon the Toutain and Lassourd approach the plasma IPC (and therefore
380 the plasma screening limit) for both detomidine and detomidine dosed in
381 combination with butorphanol will be the same as the clearance values are not
382 statistically different. However, the estimated IPC values are less than 1 pg/ml
383 which is too low for routine screening of a blood sample using current
384 technologies.

385 Analysis of detomidine in urine gives concentrations that are only 4 (detomidine
386 alone) and 8 (detomidine in combination with butorphanol) times higher than
387 the corresponding concentrations in plasma at pseudo steady-state (R_{ss}).
388 Furthermore, urine data is variable and combined with the relatively low R_{ss}
389 values suggests that urine is also a poor matrix for detomidine detection.

390 European rules of racing require a minimum of 48 hours between administration
391 and competition and given that detomidine has a very short half-life (< 1 hour),
392 monitoring of parent detomidine is of limited use. However, the 3-hydroxy
393 metabolite of detomidine gives consistent concentrations in plasma and very
394 high concentrations in urine. Therefore, detection of the 3-hydroxy metabolite
395 in urine offers an excellent way forward for the controlling of detomidine
396 administration with a screening limit of 100 pg/ml controlling for at least 35
397 hours post detomidine administration.

398 The data herein suggests that either detomidine impacts on the
399 pharmacokinetics of butorphanol or that butorphanol's clearance is dose
400 dependent between 25-100 µg/kg. For the latter scenario, the clearance is
401 smaller at the lower dose which is hard to rationalise, however, a dose response
402 PK study with butorphanol alone would answer this question. For the former
403 scenario, a three-way cross over study in the same horses should be investigated
404 with the butorphanol/detomidine combination although this would be a very
405 expensive study. Alternatively, a relatively cheap in vitro drug-drug interaction
406 study between butorphanol and detomidine using horse microsomes would

407 confirm or not any pharmacokinetic drug-drug interaction. This research
408 highlights the need to investigate the pharmacokinetics of drugs administered in
409 combination to the horse as potential drug-drug interactions may occur which
410 may have a significant effect on both therapeutic and toxic outcomes as well as
411 leading to false positives in the control of medications within the equine sports
412 industry.

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417 **Conflict of interest**

418 The authors have no commercial conflict of interests; however, the authors are
419 either employed by, working on behalf of or consulting to a regulatory agency.

420

421 **Authors' contribution**

422 JB, CH and MM contributed to the analytical development method, validation
423 and sample analysis. LH led the administration study PH and CP performed
424 project management, JS and PH performed manuscript editing. SP co-ordinated
425 the data and performed pharmacokinetic analysis. All authors contributed to the
426 writing of the manuscript, and have read and approved the final manuscript.

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468 postcompetition samples for drug control in the horse. *Equine Vet. J.* **34**, 242–9.

469 Table 1: Pharmacokinetic parameters for butorphanol tartrate dosed at 100
470 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ as a single administration and at 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in combination with 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$
471 detomidine (D) hydrochloride

472

Regimen	CL (mL/hr/kg)	Vd _z (L/kg)	T _{1/2} (hr)	MRT (hr)	V _{ss} (L/kg)
100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$	646 \pm 137	5.07 \pm 2.48	5.21 \pm 1.56	1.45 \pm 0.48	0.97 \pm 0.45
25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ (D)	380 \pm 86*	2.95 \pm 0.38	5.43 \pm 0.44	2.63 \pm 0.56*	1.01 0.36

473 *p<0.05

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492 Table 2: NMLE three compartment pharmacokinetic parameters for
 493 butorphanol tartrate dosed at 100 µg/kg as an individual administration and at
 494 25 µg/kg in combination with 10 µg/kg detomidine hydrochloride. V1, V2, V3
 495 represent the volumes of the central, second and third compartments,
 496 respectively. CL1 represents the clearance from the central compartment and
 497 CL2 and CL3 represent the distribution clearance between the central
 498 compartment and second and third compartments, respectively.

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Parameter	Typical Value (TV)	Post hoc mean ± sd	
		Individual Administration	Combination Administration
V1 (mL/kg)	279	276±90.3	322±101
V2 (mL/kg)	471	559±339	479±137
V3 (mL/kg)	221	219±13.4	225±15.8
CL1 (mL/hr/kg)	707	695±118	387±69.7
CL2 (mL/hr/kg)	75	87.2±53.2	77.1±25.8
CL3 (mL/hr/kg)	908	909±36.4	105±5.3

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512 Table 3: NCA pharmacokinetic parameters for detomidine hydrochloride dosed
513 at 10 µg/kg as a single administration and in combination with 25 µg/kg
514 butorphanol tartrate (B).

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Regimen	CL (mL/hr/kg)	Vd _z (L/kg)	T _{1/2} (hr)	MRT (hr)	V _{ss} (L/kg)
10 µg/kg	3278 ± 1412	2.76 ± 1.36	0.57 ± 0.06	0.67 ± 0.11	2.32 ± 1.30
10 µg/kg (B)	2519 ± 630	2.52 ± 0.53	0.70 ± 0.11*	0.56 ± 0.07*	1.39 ± 0.26

516 *p<0.05

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534 Table 4: NMLE one compartment pharmacokinetic parameters for detomidine
535 hydrochloride dosed at 10 µg/kg as an individual administration and in
536 combination with 25 µg/kg butorphanol tartrate. V and CL represent the
537 volume of distribution and clearance, respectively.

538

Parameter	Typical Value (TV)	Post hoc mean ± sd	
		Individual Administration	Combination Administration
V (L/kg)	2.55	2.55	2.55
CL (mL/hr/kg)	3160	3159±335	3252±147

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557 **Figure Legends**

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559 Figure 1: Plasma pharmacokinetic profiles for butorphanol dosed at 100 µg/kg
560 as a single administration (red dashed line) and at 25 µg/kg in combination
561 with 10 µg/kg detomidine hydrochloride (black solid line)

562

563 Figure 2: Urine pharmacokinetic profiles for butorphanol dosed at 100 µg/kg as
564 a single administration (red dashed line) and at 25 µg/Kg in combination with
565 10 µg/Kg detomidine hydrochloride (black solid line)

566

567 Figure 3: Plasma pharmacokinetic profiles for detomidine dosed at 10 µg/kg as
568 a single administration (red dashed line) and in combination with 25 µg/Kg
569 butorphanol tartrate (black solid line)

570

571 Figure 4: Urine pharmacokinetic profiles for detomidine dosed at 10 µg/kg as a
572 single administration (red dashed line) and in combination with 25 µg/kg
573 butorphanol tartrate (black solid line)

574

575 Figure 5: Plasma pharmacokinetic profiles for 3-hydroxy detomidine resulting
576 from the metabolism of detomidine hydrochloride dosed at 10 µg/kg as a
577 single administration (red dashed line) and in combination with 25 µg/kg
578 butorphanol tartrate (black solid line)

579

580 Figure 6: Urine pharmacokinetic profiles for 3-hydroxy detomidine resulting
581 from the metabolism of detomidine hydrochloride dosed at 10 µg/kg as a
582 single administration (red dashed line) and in combination with 25 µg/kg
583 butorphanol tartrate (black solid line).

Supplementary Information

Title: The intravenous pharmacokinetics of butorphanol and detomidine dosed in combination compared with individual dose administrations to exercised horses

Short Running Title: Intravenous horse pharmacokinetics butorphanol/ detomidine combination

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Supplementary table 1 – Summary of the plasma and urine sample times post administration for butorphanol dosed individually in each horse (Irish Study)

Horse 1	Horse 2	Horse 3	Horse 4	Horse 5	Horse 6	Horse 7	Horse 1	Horse 2	Horse 3	Horse 4	Horse 5	Horse 6	Horse 7
Plasma	Urine												
Time (hr)													
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.83	6.5	1.47	0.05	2	1	0.65
0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2.83	14.17	8	0.5	5	1.58	1.25
0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	6.67	21.25	19.17	1.22	25.83	3.25	3.17
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	11.5	25.75	24.08	3	36.75	4.42	4.25
0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	18	28.5	27.5	6.92	49.75	9.3	7.5
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27.5	31	30.58	10.08	54	11.67	9.25
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	31.75	54.5	48	13.42	71.75	18.17	12.3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	56.5	56.25	53.5	20	83.25	22.58	22.47
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	76	73.5	55.75	23.92	97.75	25.08	24
12	12	12	12	12	12	12	83.5	77.75	78.5	25.92	108.25	27.67	24.83
24	24	24	24	24	24	24	99	98	85.25	28.5	120.25	47	26.25
30	30	29	29	28	28	28	110.5	101	96.75	47.75	122.5	51.5	27.75
32	32	31	31	30	30	30	123	104.25	106.75	52.75	124.75	71.25	48.5
50.5	48.75	48.75	48.75	48.75	48.75	48.75	128.5	125.75	123.25	72	143.25	75.5	51.75
74	72	72	72	72	72	72	146	146	125.5	77	146.75	95.25	71.25
98	96	96	96	96	96	96	153.75	148	147	97.25		98	75.25
122	120	120	120	120	120	120		149	153	98.5		100.25	96.25
145	144	144	144	144	144	144				99.5		119.5	97.75
										101		121	100
										120.75		122.5	119.75
										123.5		124.25	124
										124.75		143.25	144.5
										144.75		145.25	147.5
										147.25		146.5	
										148.75		147.75	

Supplementary table 2 – Summary of the plasma and urine sample times post administration for detomidine dosed individually in each horse (German Study)

All horses	Horse 207	Horse 208	Horse 215	Horse 217	Horse 229	Horse 257	Horse 281	Horse 282
Plasma	Urine							
Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)	Time (hr)
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	2.62	2.63	2.6	2.58	2.57	2.53	2.57	2.47
2	4.98	5.03	5.45	5.13	5.05	5.25	4.2	4.28
4	7.82	7.83	7.68	7.75	8.07	8.25	5.25	7.87
8	11.37	11.58	11.27	11.58	1.33	11.42	11.05	11
12	24.48	24.87	24.52	25	25.2	25.42	25.75	25.5
24	35.48	35.83	35.35	35.55	35.47	35.52	35.18	35.1
36	48.4	48.65	48.38	48.72	49	49.13	49.42	49.18
48	59.57	59.98	59.43	59.65	59.67	59.67	59.28	59.2
	71.87	72.83	73.12	72.53	74.5	72.08	71.65	71.78
	82.98	83.42	83.18	83.12	83	83.17	82.7	82.92
	95.88	96.2	95.88	96.2	96.95	96.25	96.35	96.42

Supplementary table 3 – Summary of the plasma and urine sample times post administration for combination of butorphanol and detomidine dosed in each horse (UK Study)

Horse 13/11	Horse 14/11	Horse 15/11	Horse 16/11	Horse 17/11	Horse 18/11	Horse 13/11	Horse 14/11	Horse 15/11	Horse 16/11	Horse 17/11	Horse 18/11
Plasma	Plasma	Plasma	Plasma	Plasma	Plasma	Urine	Urine	Urine	Urine	Urine	Urine
Time (hr)											
-144.08	-142.08	-96.33	-96.32	-89.18	-89.35	-142.17	-138.25	-112.92	-95.47	-22.08	-94
-113.17	-113.33	-72.7	-72.92	-17.33	-17.58	-22.82	-24.08	-90.08	-63.92	-18.17	-21.83
-0.3	-0.22	-0.33	-0.22	-0.33	-0.12	2.48	1.42	1.75	1	1.05	1.78
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.25	3.33	3.25	2.5	2.12	1.42	5.08
1	1	1	1.03	1	1	4.75	5.5	3.67	4.28	1.92	11.33
2	2	2	2.07	2.03	1.97	5.8	6.62	6.92	5.87	3	18.83
3	3	3	3.03	3	3	6.77	9.08	9.67	7.12	5.55	23.13
4.08	4.07	4	4.03	4.08	4.08	9.25	11.08	13.17	9.45	6.25	29
5.08	5.08	5	5.03	5.08	5	11.08	14.75	14.58	10.45	8.08	38.83
6	6	6	6.03	6	6	14.75	18.75	18.83	12.45	9.5	50.17
7	7	7	7.03	7.03	7	19.17	23.17	22.83	15.45	10.92	55.17
8	8	8	8.08	8	8	22.67	25.67	26.33	19.62	12.83	74.15
9	9	9	9.08	9	9	24.17	27.25	30.33	22.87	20.17	78.58
11	11	11	11.08	11	11	25.55	30.67	36.58	23.7	25.8	96.7
13	13	13	13.03	13	13	28	33.08	39.75	24.45	28.08	103.17
15	15	15	15.03	15	15	29.45	37.08	46.67	25.12	31.25	120.75
19	19	19	19.03	19	19	30.83	38.92	48.17	26.37	38.5	126.83
23	23	23	23.03	23.03	23	32.83	48.08	54.33	29.37	48.33	143.83
25	25.08	25	25.03	25	25	35.75	54.08	72.67	30.28	54.42	150.72
27	27	27	27.03	27	27	37.08	71.42	79.17	32.53	72.5	169.33
29	29	29	29.03	29.08	29.08	38.5	77	96.83	36.68	77.42	193.75
31	31	31	31.03	31	31	48.25	96.67	105.5	39.12	97.25	222.65
33	33	33	33.03	33	33	53.83	103.92	118.42	39.62	103.42	242.25
35	35	35	35.03	35	35	71.5	120.08	126.67	46.62	119.42	
37	37	37	37.12	37	37	77	127.42	147	48.4	125.75	
39	39	39	39.08	39	39	97.25	145.22	151.25	54.53	144.42	
46.83	46.92	46.67	46.68	46.67	46.65	102.42	150.17	170.8	72.95	149.67	
54.42	54.5	54.72	54.77	54.67	54.7	120	174.08	194.83	78.2	169.83	
70.5	70.67	70.67	70.7	70.67	70.7	126.33	193.58	222.92	95.12	194.08	
78.5	78.5	78.67	78.7	78.5	78.5	145.42	217.75	242.25	102.95	225.25	
94.7	94.68	94.67	94.7	94.67	94.83	150.33	241.17		104.87	242.83	
102.5	102.48	102.67	102.7	102.83	102.92	174.25			118.87		
118.5	118.48	118.67	118.68	118.97	118.75	191.67			126.87		
126.5	126.48	126.67	126.68	126.67	126.68	217.65			144.53		
143.08	143.12	142.83	142.72	143.08	143.08	241.08			149.87		
150.47	150.45	150.92	150.95	150.75	150.58				167.12		
									192.78		
									214.28		
									238.45		

Supplementary table 4 – Summary of the sample preparation/extraction methods used by each laboratory

Germany	Ireland		United Kingdom	
Plasma and urine (detomidine and 3-hydroxydetomidine)	Plasma (butorphanol)	Urine (butorphanol)	Plasma (butorphanol, detomidine, 3-hydroxydetomidine)	Urine (butorphanol, detomidine, 3-hydroxydetomidine)
<p><i>To 5 ml of plasma/urine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add medetomidine & D₄-3-hydroxydetomidine internal standards. - Add 0.4 mL 4M sodium acetate buffer + adjust pH to 5.2. - Add 50 µl Helix pomatia + heat for 1 hour at 50°C. - Add 0.5 ml 0.8M sodium phosphate (pH7), shake and then centrifuge for 5 mins. - SPE using Oasis HLB (6 ml, 200 mg). - Condition with methanol - Condition with water. - Apply sample. - Wash with water. - Wash with 10% methanol in water. - Elute with methanol. - Evaporate, reconstitute in 1 ml TBME + 0.4 ml 0.06M HC, shake and then centrifuge for 5 mins. - Remove the aqueous layer to LCMS vials. 	<p><i>To 4 ml of plasma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add meperidine internal standard. -Add phosphate buffer 0.1 M pH 5.5 and centrifuge for 10 mins. - SPE using Bond Elut Certify (6 ml, 300mg). - Condition with methanol - Condition with phosphate buffer. - Apply sample. - Wash with water. - Wash with acetate buffer. - Wash with methanol. - Elute with ethyl acetate:triethylamine. - Evaporate, reconstitute in 50µl methanol + transfer to an LCMS vial. 	<p><i>To 3 ml of urine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add meperidine internal standard. -Add phosphate buffer 0.1 M pH 5.5, β-glucuronidase from helix pomatia & protease+ adjust pH to 6.5. - Heat at 55 °C for 1 hour then centrifuge for 10 mins. - SPE using Bond Elut Certify (6 ml, 300mg). - Condition with methanol - Condition with phosphate buffer. - Apply sample. - Wash with water. - Wash with acetate buffer. - Wash with methanol. - Elute with ethyl acetate:triethylamine. - Evaporate, reconstitute in 100µl methanol + transfer to an LCMS vial. 	<p><i>To 1 ml of plasma:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add medetomidine & D₄-3-hydroxydetomidine internal standards. - Add helix pomatia. - Heat overnight at 45 °C. - Add 600 µl 0.1M NaOH in water. - Add 3 ml 15% chloroform in TBME. - Mix on a rotary mixer for 30 mins then centrifuge for 10 mins. - Transfer the organic layer to clean tubes, evaporate + reconstitute in 5 µl IPA + 100 µl 10 mM ammonium formate, transfer to LCMS vials + centrifuge for 10 mins. 	<p><i>To 2 ml urine:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add medetomidine & D₄-3-hydroxydetomidine internal standards. - Add acetate buffer 1 M pH 4.7, β-glucuronidase from helix pomatia & pancreatin. - Heat overnight at 45 °C then centrifuge for 10 mins. - SPE using Phenomenex Strata XC (3 ml, 60 mg). - Condition with methanol - Condition with water. - Apply sample. - Wash with acetate buffer 0.1 M pH 9.0. - Wash with water. - Wash with 1 M HCl. - Wash with methanol. - Elute with 80 % ethyl acetate: 17 % isopropanol and 3 % ammonia (v/v). - Evaporate + reconstitute in 5 µl acetonitrile and 100 µl 10 mM ammonium formate, transfer to LCMS vials + centrifuge for 10 mins.

Supplementary Table 5 – Summary of the instrumental conditions used by each laboratory

	Germany	Ireland	United Kingdom
Instrumental platform	HPLC = Agilent 1200 MS = AB Sciex 4000 Q-Trap	HPLC = Agilent 1100 MS = Agilent MSD XCT Ion Trap	HPLC = Waters Acquity MS = AB Sciex 5500 Q-Trap
HPLC conditions	Column = Phenomenex Gemini 3 μ C6-Phenyl 150 x 4.6 mm. Mobile phase A = MeCN and B = 5mM ammonium acetate (pH 3.5). Flow = 0.5 ml/min. Gradient = 0% A at 0 mins, held at 0% until 1 mins, to 100% at 10 mins, held at 100% until 13.5 mins.	Column = Phenomenex Kinetex PFP 100 x 2.1mm, 2.6 μ m Mobile phase A = 10mM ammonium acetate and B = MeCN Flow = 0.3 ml/min Gradient = 27% B at 0 mins, rising to 51% at 6 mins, to 95% at 7 mins, to 27% at 11.1 mins, held at 27% until 13 mins.	Column = Waters HSS T3 100 x 2.1 mm, 1.8 μ m. Mobile phase A = MeCN & B = 10mM ammonium formate in water (pH 7.0). Flow = 0.85 ml/min. Gradient = 0% A at 0 mins, rising to 3.8% at 1.5 mins, to 6.0% at 1.51 mins, to 20.0% at 2.8 mins, to 24.0% at 2.81 mins, to 30.0% at 4.2 mins, to 90.0% at 4.21 mins, to 99.9% at 6.20 mins, held at 99.9% until 6.70 mins, to 0% at 6.71 mins, held at 0% until 7.0 mins.
MS/MS conditions	Turboionspray ionisation in positive mode. Temperature = 450°C. Ionspray voltage = 5500. Detomidine = <i>m/z</i> 187 to 81, CE = 29. 3-OH-detomidine = <i>m/z</i> 203 to 185, CE = 21. Medetomidine (internal standard for detomidine) = <i>m/z</i> 201 to 68, CE = 49. D ₄ -3-OH-detomidine (internal standard for 3-OH-detomidine) = <i>m/z</i> 207 to 81, CE = 35.	Electrospray ionisation in positive mode. Temperature = 350°C Capillary Voltage = 4000 Butorphanol = 328 to 310 (amplitude = 1.00) to 310 , 282, 242 (amplitude = 0.47) (combined EIC of all 3 used for quantitation) Meperidine (internal standard) = 248 to 220, 174(amplitude = 0.94) (combined EIC of 2 ions used for quantitation)	Turboionspray ionisation in positive mode. Temperature = 650°C. Ionspray voltage = 5500. Butorphanol = <i>m/z</i> 328 to 185, CE = 47. Detomidine = <i>m/z</i> 187 to 81, CE = 13. 3-OH-detomidine = <i>m/z</i> 203 to 81, CE = 70 (urine) & 17 (plasma). Medetomidine (internal standard for butorphanol & detomidine) = <i>m/z</i> 201 to 95, CE = 25. D ₄ -3-OH-detomidine (internal standard for 3-OH-detomidine) = <i>m/z</i> 207 to 81, CE = 31.

Supplementary Table 6 – Validated calibration ranges from each laboratory

Validated calibration ranges and highest validated dilution factors where relevant (calibration line weighting in brackets)						
Analyte	Germany (pg/ml)		Ireland (pg/ml)		United Kingdom (pg/ml)	
	Plasma	Urine	Plasma	Urine	Plasma	Urine
Butorphanol	N/A	N/A	10 – 1,500 (no weighting) + 10-fold dilution	100 – 5,000 (no weighting) + 10-fold dilution	10 - 10,000 (1/x ²) + 1000-fold dilution	100 - 10,000 (1/x ²) + 1000-fold dilution
Detomidine	10 - 2,500 (1/x)	100 - 25,000 (1/x)	N/A	N/A	5 - 10,000 (1/x ²) + 1000-fold dilution	10 - 10,000 (1/x ²) + 1000-fold dilution
3-Hydroxydetomidine	10 - 2,500 (1/x ²)	100 - 25,000 and 25,000 – 200,000 (both lines 1/x ²) ^a	N/A	N/A	5 - 10,000 (1/x ²) + 100-fold dilution	100 - 10,000 (1/x ²) + 1000-fold dilution

Supplementary Table 7: Estimated EPCs for individual versus combination administration by dividing the dose of butorphanol by the mean plasma clearance over a 24 hour period determined by either an NCA or NLME (posthoc) approach. The IPCs were determined by dividing the EPC by a factor of 500 and the IUC determined by multiplying the IPC by the pseudo steady-state ratio of urine to plasma concentration (R_{ss}). The detection times (DT) were determined by the time post dose where all horses had concentrations below the IPC/IUC.

Parameter	Individual Administration		Combination Administration	
	NCA	NLME	NCA	NLME
EPC (pg/mL)	6450	5995	2741	2692
IPC (pg/mL)	13	12	6	5
R _{ss}	730	730	560	560
IUC (pg/mL)	9490	8760	3080	3015
Plasma DT (hrs)	49	49	>47	>47
Urine DT (hrs)	57	57	50	50

Supplementary Table 8: Estimated EPCs for individual versus combination administration by dividing the dose of detomidine by the mean plasma clearance over a 24 hour period determined by either an NCA or NLME (posthoc) approach. The IPCs were determined by dividing the EPC by a factor of 500 and the IUC determined by multiplying the IPC by the pseudo steady-state ratio of urine to plasma concentration (R_{ss}). The detection times (DT) were determined by the time post dose where all horses had concentrations below the IPC/IUC.

Parameter	Individual Administration		Combination Administration	
	NCA	NLME	NCA	NLME
EPC (pg/mL)	127	132	165	128
IPC (pg/mL)	0.25	0.26	0.33	0.27
R _{ss}	4	4	8	8
IUC (pg/mL)	1.02	1.04	2.64	2.05
Plasma DT (hrs)	>4	>4	>9	>9
Urine DT (hrs)	>4	>4	11	11





