

**Supplementary material Table S1.** Sedation scale score adapted from Grint *et al.* (21) validated by Wagner *et al.* (19) used to assess numerical rating score.

Variable	Score	Criteria	Time after sedation (minutes)					
			T5	T10	T15	T20	T25	T30
General appearance/attitude	0	Excitable						
	1	Awake and normal						
	2	Tranquil						
	3	Stuporous						
Spontaneous posture	0	Standing						
	1	Tired but standing						
	2	Lying but able to rise						
	3	Lying but difficulty rising						
Response to noise (clicker at 150 cm distance)	0	Normal startle reaction (head turn towards noise/cringe)						
	1	Reduced startle reaction (reduced head turn/minimal cringe)						
	2	Minimal startle reaction						
	3	Absent reaction						
Eye position	0	Central						
	1	Rotated forwards/downwards but not obscured by third eyelid						
	2	Rotated forwards/downwards and obscured by third eyelid						
Palpebral reflex	0	Brisk						
	1	Slow but with full corneal sweep						
	2	Slow but with only partial corneal sweep						
	3	Absent						
Jaw and tongue relaxation	0	Normal jaw tone, strong gag reflex						
	1	Reduced tone, but still moderate gag reflex						
	2	Much reduced tone, slight gag reflex						
	3	Loss of jaw tone and no gag reflex						
Resistance when laid into lateral recumbency	0	Much struggling, perhaps not allowing this position						
	1	Some struggling, but allowing this position						
	2	Minimal struggling/permissive						
	3	No struggling						
Sedation scale score (out of 21)								

**Supplementary material Table S2.** Sedation scores (sedation scale and DIVAS) from the interscapular dexmedetomidine administration is provided in this table, together with the information for the GV20 and SC-head groups at each time-point of the 30-min evaluation period. The values are shown as median (min-max). The number of animals included in each group is GV20 n=10, SC-head n=10, and interscapular injection n= 8.

		Time (min)					
		5	10	15	20	25	30
DIVAS (0 – 100 mm)	GV20	31.5 (8-57)	62 (28-80)	75 (56-91)	79 (64-96)	84.5 (65-97)	85.5 (60-97)
	SC-head	50 (11-69)	66 (39-88)	81 (56-96)	84.5 (65-98)	84.5 (54-98)	87 (44-98)
	SC-interscapular	4 (0-18)	8.5 (0-19)	13 (3-25)	17 (4-44)	21.5 (7-63)	23 (7-64)
Sedation scale (0 – 21)	GV20	4 (0-9)	10.5 (5-17)	15 (10-19)	17 (14-20)	17.5 (13-20)	17 (12-20)
	SC-head	6 (3-12)	14.5 (8-18)	17 (13-20)	18.5 (16-20)	17.5 (13-20)	19 (8-20)
	SC-interscapular	0.5 (0-3)	1.5 (0-4)	2.5 (0-7)	4 (1-9)	5 (1-12)	5.5 (1-12)