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Ketamine-medetomidine regimen for chemical immobilization of free ranging chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) in Uganda

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An increasing human population in Uganda has had important consequences for free-ranging chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) including habitat destruction, and increased interaction between humans and chimpanzees. As a result, medical situations are occurring in chimpanzees with increasing frequency that justifiably require veterinary interventions. One of the challenges for veterinary interventions in free-ranging chimpanzees is establishment of a safe and effective anesthetic regimen. This report presents a partially reversible regimen of ketamine (4.74 mg/kg +2.19), medetomidine (0.04 mg/kg +0.02) and atipamezole (0.21 mg/kg +0.10), developed during chemical immobilizations of free-ranging chimpanzees (n=9) in Uganda from 2006 to 2011. The protocol proved safe and effective in a variety of situations and provides a baseline standard for further investigation.

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