

## Reversal of xylazine in red deer

*From Dr C. G. Mackintosh*

SIR, — I noted with interest the short communication by McKelvey and Simpson (*VR*, October 5, p362) in which it was suggested that a combination of 4-aminopyridine and yohimbine could be used for the reversal of xylazine sedation in deer. They stated that an 'effective dose rate which carries minimal risk of excitement but ensures rapid recovery would be 0.2 mg/kg yohimbine and 0.4 mg/kg 4-aminopyridine' based on their experience with nine animals.

Work carried out in New Zealand (Mackintosh and van Reenen 1984a) showed that the use of 4-aminopyridine in combination with yohimbine may have adverse effects. Severe protracted convulsions occurred in two out of eight deer treated with 0.3 mg/kg 4-aminopyridine together with 0.125 mg/kg yohimbine. However, yohimbine alone, at 0.2 to 0.25 mg/kg, gave rapid, consistent reversal of xylazine sedation in over 30 deer. Subsequently, over 3000 doses of yohimbine have been used in deer with no untoward effects, except on four occasions when it was given inadvertently by intracarotid injection causing transient convulsions (Mackintosh and van Reenen 1984b). Recervyl (Aspiring Veterinary Services, Wanaka), a commercially prepared 1 per cent solution of yohimbine, is now licensed for use in deer in New Zealand.

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### References

- MACKINTOSH, C. G. & VAN REENEN, G. (1984a)  
*New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 32, 181  
MACKINTOSH, C. G. & VAN REENEN, G. (1984b)  
*New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 32, 217