

Kurze Mitteilung/Short Communication

Surgery Dept., Fac. of Vet. Medicine, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt

Paravertebral Anaesthesia in Buffaloes

By

A. H. SAID, M. M. SHOUKRY and K. FOUAD

With 4 figures

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Paravertebral anaesthesia has been the anaesthetic procedure of choice for cattle in those surgical operations where general anaesthesia is not necessary or is unsuitable.

Cattle are considered to be particularly good subjects for paravertebral anaesthesia for such procedures as laparotomy, rumenotomy and caesarean section involving the flank region.

Many publications have dealt with paravertebral anaesthesia in cattle, especially its application and advantages (FARQUHARSON, 1940; KALCHSCHMIDT, 1948; BRAIN, 1949; MAGDA, 1949; SCHREIBER, 1955; CAKALA, 1961).

As no information is available regarding its use in buffalo, which are of great economic value as farm animals in Egypt, we decided to evaluate its efficiency.

Anatomical consideration

Anatomical study of the flank area in the buffalo (Fig. 1) revealed that it is supplied by the last thoracic and the first three lumbar nerves. They are distributed to the muscles, skin and peritoneum of the flank area in a fashion similar to those nerves in cattle (SCHALLER, 1956; WALTER, 1959). However, there are some differences regarding the position of each nerve trunk after emergence from the respective intervertebral foramen in correlation to certain surface landmarks.

The thoracic and lumbar vertebrae of buffaloes are much larger than in cattle and have relatively longer transverse processes and double intervertebral foramina (Fig. 2). Moreover the spinous processes are wider and longer, with greatly thickened summits. In such circumstances the position of each nerve trunk was found deeper at its exit from the intervertebral foramen than in cattle e. g. in the adult buffalo at a depth of about 8 cm in the case of the last thoracic and the first three lumbar nerves.