Standing equine sedation

Xylazine
- Reaches maximum effect in 5-8 minutes IV
- Can be given IV or IM (IM dose can be close to double)
- Avoid giving to horses with a fever (hyperventilation)
- Duration 15-20 minutes
- Causes decreased GI motility, 2nd degree block
- Very good for short term analgesia in equine colic
- Deeply sedated horses can still respond to stimulation, especially touch

Detomidine
- 10 times the strength of Xylazine
- Can be given IV or IM (IM dose can be close to double)
- Avoid giving to horses with a fever (hyperventilation)
- Duration 40-50 minutes
- Good for longer term analgesia in equine colic
- Good sedative for dental procedures

Butorphanol
- Rarely used alone for sedation, other than foals
- Can be given IV or IM
- Can be used for analgesia to break pain cycle
- Can cause head shakes – affects x-rays and dental procedures

Xylazine or detomidine with butorphanol
- Very good combination for standing procedures
- Duration up to 60 minutes
- Can produce obvious ataxia
- Marked decrease in GI motility
- Often combination of choice for joint injections

Acepromazine
- Produces a calming effect on the horse
- Not a potent tranquilizer
- Causes vasodilation
- Useful in agitated post partum mares to allow foal to nurse
- Useful in laminitis and tying up cases
- Be aware in males and stallions: can lead to priapism

Intravenous general anesthesia
For recumbent procedures up to 1 hour

Xylazine / ketamine
- 10-20 minutes of surgical anesthesia
- Good induction and recovery
- Xylazine administered first, followed 3 minutes later by Ketamine
- Often requires additional dose (1/3 original dose)
- Popular combination for castrations
- Increase induction dose by 20% in more agitated animals

Xylazine / ketamine / diazepam
- Less movement
- Added muscle relaxation
- Smoother recovery
Xylazine / ketamine / guaifenesin drip

- Induce with xylazine / diazepam / ketamine
- Continuous infusion at 2 ml/kg/hr
- 1 Liter 5% GG + 500 mg xylazine + 1000 mg ketamine
- Excellent form of anesthesia
- GREAT muscle relaxation
- MUST use a catheter / not to be given off the needle
- Ideal for field settings
- Do not exceed 1 hour of anesthesia
- Recommended for castration of stallions

Epidural anesthesia – caudal

- Recommended for standing procedures
- Different choices:
  - Lidocaine
  - Carbocaine
  - Xylazine
  - Detomidine
- 19-g 1.5 inch needle
- First movable space after the sacrum
- Decrease systemic sedation to avoid excessive ataxia
- Indications:
  - Tail procedures – mass removals
  - Perineal surgery (urethrotomy)
  - Recto vaginal tears
  - Rectal tears (repair and / or stabilizing a patient)