

28/09/10

FAB

Dear FAB Practice Members,

With the recent difficulty in obtaining Intubeaze spray (Dechra) some practices have substituted a Xylocaine spray from the human medicine market. Now that Intubeaze is once more available we would urge practices to discard any unused Xylocaine, as we are aware of a number of cats that may have suffered laryngeal difficulties as a consequence of this substitution.

Those of you who are long enough in the tooth may recall that these sprays were associated with post-anaesthetic complications in cats back in 1992 when Astra re-formulated the Xylocaine spray product which had previously been widely used in the veterinary field. Unfortunately the newer product caused laryngeal oedema, upper respiratory obstruction and/or excessive airway secretion in some cats and was responsible for a number of fatalities before the problem was recognised. Other affected cats were more fortunate because if the problem is identified early and appropriate supportive care is provided (which may include re-intubation until the spasm and swelling has receded) the signs are reversible.

We are concerned that if Xylocaine is used in place of Intubeaze there may be an increase in post-extubation complications. Three recent and separate communications with our practice suggest that this may indeed have happened while Intubeaze was unavailable.

We hope this information is helpful. We would be interested to hear of others experience.

Yours sincerely

Martha Cannon and Caroline Blundell

Partners

The Oxford Cat Clinic

