

**SINGLE INTRATESTICULAR INJECTION OF ZINC GLUCONATE AS A  
CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD FOR CAPTIVE CAPUCHIN MONKEYS  
(*CEBUS LIBIDINOSUS*)**

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The aim of the present study was to evaluate the efficacy of intratesticular injection of zinc gluconate (Testoblock<sup>®</sup>) as a permanent contraception for captive capuchin monkeys (*Cebus Libidinosus*). Six adult male captive capuchin monkeys (*Cebus Libidinosus*) were anesthetized with xylazine (0.5 mg/kg) followed by ketamine (5.0 mg/kg) for intratesticular injection and semen collection using an eletrejaculator. Anesthetized monkeys received a single injection of Testoblock<sup>®</sup> into each testis. The volume of Testoblock<sup>®</sup> was based on testis width measured with a caliper. Physical examination, testis and prostatic gland volume assessed by ultrasound, semen characteristics, and social behavior were evaluated on Day 0 (before Testoblock<sup>®</sup> injection) and at Day 60 and Day 180 after treatment. There was no apparent scrotal or testicular pain or tenderness, since animals did not reveal any behavioral changes after the procedure. There was evidence of testicular atrophy based on reductions in testis volume (46%) on Day 180 when compared to Day 0 ( $0.73 \pm 0.7$  mL and  $1.33 \pm 0.69$ , respectively;  $P=0.044$ ). Regarding sperm parameters, on Day 180, three capuchin monkeys were azoospermic, two were oligospermic, and one still had viable sperm and an apparent normal sperm count. Prostatic volume decreased 74% at Day 180 when compared to Day 0 ( $0.19 \pm 0.1$  and  $0.71 \pm 0.4$ , respectively;  $P=0.092$ ). Social behavior was assessed by visual observation of the captive animals in their habitat at the zoo and changes were not noted in any of the treated animals. To our knowledge, this is the first report regarding contraception of male captive capuchin monkeys (*Cebus libidinosus*) by a single bilateral intratesticular injection of zinc gluconate. This study shows the enormous potential of intratesticular injection of zinc gluconate for the management of a captive primate species.