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

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QUESTIONS
- Very adapted to captive conditions at the Zoos in Brazil
- Populations has become excessive; Starvation and other problems occur
- Population control for biodiversity conservation

MATERIAL AND METHODS
- 6 monkeys
- Intratesticular injection of zinc gluconate TESTOBLOCK® (1mL of solution for a 25mm testis width)
- Physical evaluation, testis and prostatic gland volume, spermogram, behaviour
- Evaluation at day 0 (before the procedure) and at 60, 120 and 180

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
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±0.7mL and 1.33±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±0.1 and 0.71 ± 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.

CONCLUSION
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.

REFERENCES