



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Office of Research Compliance (ORC)

Rodent Major Survival Surgery

FULL POLICY CONTENTS

Policy Statement	Effective: 02/26/2008
Reason for Policy	Last Updated: 12/28/2015
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Sanctions	Responsible University Officer:
Contacts	Fred H. Cate
	<i>Vice President for Research</i>
ADDITIONAL DETAILS	
Web Address	Policy Owner:
	<i>Bloomington Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</i>
	Policy Contact:
	<i>IACUC Administrator</i>

Policy Statement

Aseptic surgical procedures must be used for major survival surgery of rodents. A separate room or dedicated area used primarily for aseptic procedures is desirable; however, the IUB Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) may approve conducting survival rodent surgical procedures in certain laboratory areas.

Reason for Policy

Per the 8th edition of the *Guide*, p. 118:

Aseptic technique is used to reduce microbial contamination to the lowest possible practical level. While the species of animal may influence the manner in which principles of aseptic technique are achieved, inadequate or improper technique may lead to subclinical infections that can cause adverse physiologic and behavioral responses, affecting surgical success, animal

well-being, and research results. General principles of aseptic technique should be followed for all survival surgical procedures.

Procedures

The following minimum standards for aseptic procedures have been adopted by the IACUC and LAR:

- A designated, surgical area, consisting of a clean, uncluttered, and sanitized work surface.
- Appropriate preparation of the surgical site, including removal of the fur and adequate disinfection of the skin.
- The use of sterile instruments, supplies, and wound closure materials; or mechanisms for rapidly re-sterilizing instruments if they are to be re-used.
- Draping the adjacent area around the incision with sterile drapes (e.g., sterile gauze, autoclaved mat/paper towels) to avoid contamination of the incision, instruments, and supplies.
- Sterile surgical gloves and surgical mask worn by the surgeon and any assistants working in the immediate surgical field. A surgeon's cap is recommended to prevent hair or dander from falling into the surgical area.
- A clean lab coat, surgical gown, or other appropriate attire to replace or cover street clothing.
- The use of surgical techniques that avoid contamination of sterile instruments and gloves, reducing the likelihood of infection.

Surgical procedures may be performed on multiple rodents during a single session using one sterile surgical pack, providing that:

- Caution is exercised to minimize contamination.
- Instruments are heated in either a hot bead sterilizer, flamed with 95% alcohol, or soaked in an approved sterilant, observing recommended exposure times and then rinsed in sterile saline between uses.
- When appropriately justified, the IACUC may approve a "tips only" surgery where the only the tip of a sterilized instrument comes into contact with the animal. This can be performed by properly trained surgeons, using fresh exam gloves and staples for wound closure. Sterile surgical gloves are available, should contact need to be made with the incision or tissues within the body cavity.

Post-operative monitoring and suture removal are important post-surgical considerations. These must be described in the animal use protocol and must adhere to guidelines in the current NRC *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Post-operative analgesia must be in accordance with the related IACUC policy.

Exceptions will be considered by the IACUC only with appropriate scientific justification.

Sanctions

Failure to comply with IACUC policies may result in noncompliance reports to the Institutional Official, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and/or the suspension of animal use privileges. In addition, the availability of sponsored research funds may be affected when an Investigator is found to be in violation of these policies.

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Phone	Email
Surgical inquiries	LAR Veterinarian	855-2356	lar@indiana.edu
Policy	IACUC Administrator	855-5138	biacuc@indiana.edu

Web Address for this Policy

<https://research.iu.edu/policies/bloomington-animal-care-and-use.html>