

FLSC Standard Operating Procedure for Footpad Injection of Mice and Rats

Technical Procedure: Footpad Injection

Materials

PPE: disposable gloves, lab coat, filter mask, safety glasses
Hypodermic needle 30g x ½”
Syringe (1 ml)
Injection article or compound
Alcohol

Procedure

1. Fill syringe with appropriate amount of article to be administered. The maximum amount that can be injected into a footpad is 50 microliters (0.05 ml).
2. The animal is placed in a restraint tube with one hind foot isolated and extended by grasping the skin above the stifle.
3. Wipe the foot with alcohol to remove debris prior to injecting.
4. Grasp the toes of the extended foot before releasing the skin at the stifle.
5. Inject subcutaneously into the center of the hind foot forming a small bleb at the injection site.
6. Once the compound has been delivered, remove the needle and observe for bleeding.
7. Apply light pressure to the puncture site if bleeding occurs.
8. Return the animals to the cage.

Precautions

1. Only one hind foot is used. - Never inject both hind feet.
2. Avoid puncturing the blood vessel that runs the length of the foot - inject just off the midline parallel to the vessel.
3. All animals must be closely monitored for signs of pain, level of food consumption and for normal ambulation.
4. Self-mutilation can occur with the foot being chewed off. This is a sign of chronic pain. Any animal demonstrating self-mutilation should be called to the attention of the veterinary staff immediately.
5. The animal must be euthanized when the lesion or tumor reaches the protocol end point or interferes with the animal's ability to ambulate or reach food and water.