

FLSC Standard Operating Procedure for Lesion/Mass Monitoring

Purpose

Freimann Life Science Center houses animal used for cancer studies with induced and spontaneous tumor development, animals on studies that require aging, as well as animals that exhibit behaviors resulting in lesions. The following procedures provide clarity for husbandry and research staff on providing care and assessing when endpoint criteria are approaching.

Procedures

1. Rodents with masses or lesions will be identified by the animal care staff noting the location and size of the mass/lesion. A pink tag on a Vet Care Card will be used to alert the veterinary staff.
2. All cages containing animals with masses/lesions will be identified with a Brown (Lesion/Lumps) Vet Care Card tab by the veterinary staff after initial examination.
3. Rodents will be examined during weekly rounds and one or more of the following treatment options initiated:
 - a. Observe mass/lesion daily, twice a week, or weekly.
 - b. Measure mass or check investigator monitoring records.
 - c. Segregate from cage mates.
 - d. Place on Alpha-dri® bedding.
 - e. Change environmental enrichment type.
 - f. Apply topical lidocaine gel daily or twice weekly.
 - g. Drain/debride abscesses.
 - h. Treatments as deemed necessary by the veterinarian.
4. Animal care staff will provide treatments as directed by the veterinarian.
5. Masses/lesions on the head or face that involve the eye(s) are of special concern. All ocular involvement or any masses that cause a misalignment of the jaw must be noted and the veterinary staff immediately notified.
6. Rodents noted to have open lesions that exceed 10 millimeters in diameter, have masses greater than 10 millimeters or in a location that impairs their ability to access food/water, are self mutilating, bleeding, or have become necrotic, will be called to the immediate attention of the veterinary staff or veterinarian. The investigator will be notified.
7. Any induced or transplanted tumors require the investigator to abide by the IACUC Policy on Humane Endpoints in Animal Experimentation. Masses greater than 20 millimeters in diameter or exceed 10% of the normal body weight require euthanasia unless there is an exception granted in the approved animal protocol.
8. Should the condition cause unrelieved pain or the animal fail to respond to treatment, the investigator will be notified and euthanasia recommended.