

UBC ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES for POLICY 017

Guidelines on Monitoring and Medical Records of Animals used for Research, Teaching and Testing

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide details on assessing animal health in different animal models. It is intended to accompany the “Policy 017 Monitoring and Medical Records of Animal used for Research, Teaching and Testing”. Minimal requirements for health assessments for rodent models are included in Appendix I. A major goal of health and welfare monitoring is to be able to quickly identify “abnormal” animals and to have a clear plan of action to address the health concerns identified.

MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A monitoring checklist should be developed with input from all involved with animal monitoring, including the Principal Investigator (PI) and all personnel involved with the study. Input from the clinical veterinarians, post-approval monitoring (PAM) team, and members of the ACC is encouraged. This will be particularly important for non-rodent species that may have specific monitoring requirements.
2. The clinical health variables to be recorded will vary between studies. At a minimum these should capture overall health and study specific concerns.
3. For rodents, what is included in a health assessment for monitoring should be based on recommendations listed in **Appendix IA-ID**. Additional monitoring may be required for specific studies and non-rodent species.
4. Researchers should aim to complete both invasive procedures and ACC required post-procedure monitoring within normal working hours. If surgery or other major procedures are performed late in the day or on a Friday it is expected that out of hours monitoring will be done by the study team members or specifically arranged with facility staff.
5. In many studies and for many species, especially rodent species, change in weight is a helpful measure of animal health.
6. For most surgeries, animals should be assessed for pain and analgesia for up to 3 days post-operatively (for details see “UBC Animal Care Committee Guidelines -

Rodent Procedures Classifications and Analgesia Requirements”). Analgesia must be considered appropriate if the condition is known to be painful and/or the animal shows signs of pain and there is no contraindication that would make the risk of side effects outweigh the benefit. Pain relief may be required beyond the 3rd day depending on the study. Exceptions must be approved by the committee and clearly written in the protocol.

7. The actions taken by researchers when welfare concerns are identified as a result of monitoring should follow the “Policy 004 Animal Health and Welfare Concerns: Treatment and Humane Endpoints”.

Appendix IA - ID: Rodent Monitoring Sheet/Record Guidelines. Minimum expected monitoring requirements for different examples of animal models.

Appendix II: References used to create monitoring sheet/record guidelines in Appendix I.

APPENDIX IC: RODENT MONITORING SHEET/RECORD GUIDELINES - These signs should be documented for experimental monitoring
Monitoring sheets and humane endpoints are approved on a per protocol basis. The frequency of monitoring MUST increase with risk of
deterioration and severity of clinical signs. See Appendix 2 for References

Important: More Than One Column Or Several Columns May Apply To Each Study And Additional Monitoring Requirements May Apply

Variables	Imaging with Anesthesia	Drug/chemical/biologic treatment with known species-specific toxic effects	Drug/chemical/biologic with unknown species-specific toxic effects. MTD studies	Diabetes Phenotype (e.g. NOD mice)	Diabetes-induced (e.g. STZ)
Appearance Activity Posture and Gait	During first 30-60 min following recovery from anesthesia, then every 12-24 hrs for 72 hrs or until recovered/stable or as long as repeated imaging continues.	Frequency dependent on severity and duration of clinical signs (range once daily to continuous). Monitor during expected phase of toxicity or side effects and until observed clinical signs resolve. If no lab specific experience with dose and/or route, monitor daily for at least 14 days after last dose.	After first administration monitor continuously over the first 30 minutes, then hourly for 2 hours and once in the following 4-8 hours. Daily monitoring required for at least the first two weeks. If clinical signs (Grade 3-4 ²) are noted then animals should be monitored twice daily. If potential for severe signs of toxicity (e.g. seizures, labored breathing, lethargy, pain) then hourly monitoring is recommended until risk decreases.	Every other day to weekly after DM onset (will depend on treatments).	Daily after administration of STZ or Alloxan.
Body Weight Initial baseline weight required	Post-imaging, daily until pre-imaging weight recovers or is stable.	Prior to treatment, daily for toxic drugs or weekly for non-toxic drugs until weight recovers or is stable. Non-toxic compounds and infrequent	Daily until weight recovers or is stable.	When blood or urine glucose or polyuria and polydipsia identified or starting at 10 weeks in NOD mice. Every other day to weekly after DM onset	Every other day to weekly after induction of DM (will depend on treatments).

Variables	Imaging with Anesthesia	Drug/chemical/biologic treatment with known species-specific toxic effects	Drug/chemical/biologic with unknown species-specific toxic effects. MTD studies	Diabetes Phenotype (e.g. NOD mice)	Diabetes-induced (e.g. STZ)
		administration by normal route does not require additional monitoring.		(will depend on treatments).	
Hydration	Daily for 72 hrs or until recovered/stable or as long as repeated imaging continues.	Drug specific as above in “appearance” category.	Minimum daily as above.	Every other day to weekly after DM onset (will depend on treatments).	Daily after injection.
Temperature					
Respiration		If potential respiratory effects then monitor at least once daily during risk period and when using oral gavage.	Minimum daily as above		
Elimination	If using radiation, monitor for diarrhea daily as above.	Drug specific: If potential gastrointestinal effects then monitor daily during risk period.	Minimum daily as above.	Every other day to weekly after DM onset (will depend on treatments).	Daily after injection looking for indication of polyuria and polydipsia. Daily after onset of DM.
Neurological Signs		Drug specific: If potential neurological effects then monitor daily during risk period. Monitor for: head tilt, circling, ataxia, seizures, & altered behavior.	Minimum daily as above.		

Variables	Imaging with Anesthesia	Drug/chemical/biologic treatment with known species-specific toxic effects	Drug/chemical/biologic with unknown species-specific toxic effects. MTD studies	Diabetes Phenotype (e.g. NOD mice)	Diabetes-induced (e.g. STZ)
SKIN Incision, Wound, injection or sampling site	Injection Site: If injecting agents, such as contrast, monitor site of injection daily for 1-2 days. Monitor for inflammation, bleeding and infection.	IV route: if potential extravasation injury or repeated IV dosing, then check site immediately and ~ 10-45 min post injection and 1-2 d later for bruising/injury TOPICAL: if known skin irritant, monitor daily until resolved.	Minimum daily as above		
Tumour		Drug specific. If long term study of carcinogen monitor as per tumour guidelines.			
Other		If novel route and/or dose for the compound/drug follow recommendations for investigational drugs.	Potential toxicities should be well researched prior to study commencement. Pilot study required for substances with unpredictable effects.	Weekly blood or urine glucose when polyuria and polydipsia identified or starting at 10 weeks in NOD mice. Then daily to weekly after onset of DM (will depend on treatments).	Daily blood or urine glucose after administration of STZ or Allaxon. Daily to weekly after onset of DM (will depend on treatments).
Pain Assessment	<p>Frequency of pain assessment depends on dosing interval for the drug chosen. See UBC Animal Care Committee Guidelines-Rodent Surgical Classifications and Analgesic Guidelines.</p> <p>Animals should be monitored at when the analgesia is expected to wear off (6-8h for buprenorphine, 24h for Meloxicam (Metacam) or Ketoprofen (Anafen), especially for the first 24h.</p>				

Variables	Imaging with Anesthesia	Drug/chemical/biologic treatment with known species-specific toxic effects	Drug/chemical/biologic with unknown species-specific toxic effects. MTD studies	Diabetes Phenotype (e.g. NOD mice)	Diabetes-induced (e.g. STZ)
		Post administration & frequency appropriate for drug, if needed.	Post administration and minimum daily.		
Nursing care depends on health assessment and scientific goals of study	Heat support, food placed on bottom of cage, additional treats and gel water replacement on cage floor and /or fluid replacement (SQ fluids) until recovered/stable. Care will depend on frequency and type of imaging.	Consider humane endpoints and effects on study data instead of extending an animal's life using nursing care. Nutritional, hydration and other support may help in some cases.	Consider humane endpoints and effects on study data instead of extending an animal's life using nursing care. Nutritional, hydration and other support may help in some cases.	Consider humane endpoints and effects on study data instead of extending an animal's life using nursing care. Nutritional, hydration and other support may help in some cases. Other: Warming if hypothermic. Insulin or IP dextrose for metabolic corrections for some studies.	Consider humane endpoints and effects on study data instead of extending an animal's life using nursing care. Nutritional, hydration and other support may help in some cases. Other: Warming if hypothermic. Insulin or IP dextrose for metabolic corrections for some studies.
Humane endpoints specific to model and referenced in the literature. Ensure typical endpoints and study-specific	Typical endpoints	Typical endpoints Other: Skin necrosis at injection site or difficulty breathing post-gavage.	Typical endpoints Other: Skin necrosis at injection site or difficulty breathing post-gavage. For Toxicity or Maximum Tolerated Dose studies exceptions may be permitted.	Typical humane endpoints Other: Severe muscle weakness, inability to maintain hydration, prolonged hyperglycemia.	Typical humane endpoints Other: Severe muscle weakness, inability to maintain hydration, prolonged hyperglycemia.

Variables	Imaging with Anesthesia	Drug/chemical/biologic treatment with known species-specific toxic effects	Drug/chemical/biologic with unknown species-specific toxic effects. MTD studies	Diabetes Phenotype (e.g. NOD mice)	Diabetes-induced (e.g. STZ)
endpoints are included.					

APPENDIX II: REFERENCES – Sorted in alphabetical order by model

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