Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-18-5813
Service: Research
Operating Section: IACUC
Unit: LUC/HSD
Title: Blood collection in Rodents and Rabbits

Purpose:
To outline IACUC guidelines for blood retrieval in rodent and rabbits.

Procedure:

1) Rodents:
   a) Retro-orbital bleeding - (general or topical anesthesia required).
   b) Cardiac puncture - (general anesthetic, terminal procedure only).
   c) Tail vein or artery:
      (1) Venipuncture (needle and syringe)
      (2) Incision with scalpel (topical or general anesthetic)
      (3) Snip off tip of tail (cannot penetrate bone) (general anesthesia required for animals greater than 3 weeks of age; postoperative hemostasis required).
   d) Saphenous venipuncture or other sites may be employed.
   e) Mandibular vein.

2) Rabbits:
   a) Laceration of ear and use of xylene are not allowed.
   b) Cardiac puncture (general anesthetic, terminal procedure only).
   c) Marginal ear vein or central auricular artery by phlebotomy [(0.1 ml acepromazine administered for vasodilation and sedative is recommended)].

3) Blood collection volume and frequency:
   a) No more than 15% of the animal's total blood volume should be collected at any one time unless the blood collection is terminal.
   b) Bleeding frequency may not exceed 15% volume taken every two weeks. Smaller volumes can be obtained at more frequent intervals, but combined volume should not exceed a total of 15% every two weeks.
   c) Total blood volumes/species - Maximum withdrawal
d) rabbit - 59 ml/kg  6-9 ml/kg
mouse - 78 ml/kg  8-10 ml/kg
rat - 67 ml/kg  7-10 ml/kg

Any deviation from the above must be scientifically justified in an IACUC approved protocol.

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