Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-18-5440
Service: Research
Operating Section: Surgery
Unit: CMF
Title: Guidelines for Survival Rodent Surgery

Purpose:
To describe guidelines for all surgical procedures performed on rodents in which the animals are expected to recover from anesthesia.

Procedure:
1) Pre-Operative:
   a) Surgery should be conducted in a disinfected, uncluttered area which promotes asepsis during surgery.
   b) Prepare the animal by removing hair from the surgical site. Perform this procedure in an area separate from where the surgery is to be conducted.
   c) Prepare the surgical site(s) with an appropriate skin disinfectant.
   d) Surgeons should wash and dry their hands before aseptically donning sterile surgical gloves.

2) Operative:
   a) The animal must be maintained in a surgical plane of anesthesia throughout the procedure.
   b) Begin surgery with sterile instruments and handle them aseptically.
   c) Instruments and gloves may be used for a series of similar surgeries provided they are maintained clean and disinfected between animals.
   d) Monitor and/or maintain the animal's vital signs.
   e) Close surgical wounds using appropriate techniques and materials.

3) Post-Operative:
   a) Move the animal to a warm, dry area and monitor it during recovery. Return the animal to its routine housing only after it has fully recovered from anesthesia.
   b) Provide analgesics as appropriate.
   c) Remove skin closures 10 to 14 days post-operatively.
   d) Maintain a surgical record and write the type of procedure and date on the cage card.

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