

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
ANIMAL CARE AND VETERINARY SERVICES

MONITORING/TUMOUR GROWTH/RODENTS

Standard Operating Procedure # 100-02

1 **INTRODUCTION**

“Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) provide a detailed description of procedures to be followed unless alternate procedures have been outlined in an “Application to Use Animals”. If an investigator wishes to proceed differently from an approved SOP, the changes must be itemized in the application. To assist the Animal Use Subcommittee in protocol review, the reasons for deviating from the standard procedure should also be included. Approval of the protocol indicates approval of the deviation from the SOP for that project only.

Unless specifically described in an approved 'Application to Use Animals in Teaching or Research' the following guidelines must be followed.

2 **PROCEDURE**

2.1 Tumours Which Can be Monitored Visually (subcutaneous)

2.1.1 Prior to the approximate time when tumour growth becomes evident, animals may be monitored on an occasional basis. The frequency will depend on how soon following injection tumour growth will become evident. In most cases, once a week should be adequate.

2.1.2 If the approximate time is not known the initial group of animals must be very carefully monitored (i.e. every other day) to obtain this information.

2.1.3 Once tumour growth has been identified, monitor the animals at least every other day. Some tumour lines will require daily checks.

2.1.4 The criteria to be used to euthanize animals are;

2.1.4.1 weight loss, lethargy, inappetance OR

2.1.4.2 tumour size interferes with locomotion, eating or drinking OR

2.1.4.3 tumour ulcerates

2.1.5 The monitoring frequency must be such that animals are euthanized as soon as these signs develop. Deaths must not occur.

2.1.6 Euthanize animals using the method as outlined in the approved animal use protocol.

2.2 Tumours Which Cannot be Monitored Visually (Internal)

2.2.1 Prior to the approximate time when tumour growth become evident animals may be monitored on an occasional basis. The frequency will depend on how soon following injection tumour growth will become evident and could range from daily to weekly.

2.2.2 If the approximate time is not known the initial group of animals must be very carefully monitored, at least every day, to obtain this information.

2.2.3 Once the animal is exhibiting signs which can be attributed to the tumour the animal must be monitored with increased frequency. The frequency will depend of the rate of growth, organ affected and type of tumour.

2.2.4 The criteria to be used to euthanize animals are one or more of the following;

2.2.4.1 weight loss

2.2.4.2 lethargy

2.2.4.3 dehydration

2.2.4.4 anorexia

2.2.4.5 piloerection

2.2.5 The monitoring frequency must be such that animals are euthanized as soon as these signs develop. Deaths must not occur.

2.2.6 Euthanize animals using the method as outlined in the approved animal use protocol.

3 **SUMMARY**

Careful monitoring of animals with tumour burdens is essential from the animal welfare aspect. In addition, valid data can be lost if animals succumb without the appropriate examination of the animals or tissue.

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