

University of Notre Dame Freimann Life Science Center

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 with a pink tag to alert the veterinarian during weekly rounds. The location and size of the mass/lesion will be noted by the animal care staff.
2. All cages containing animals with masses/lesions will be identified by the veterinarian with a Brown (Lesion/Lumps) Veterinary Care Card tab.
3. Rodents will be examined by the veterinarian during weekly rounds and one or more of the following treatment options initiated:
 - a. Observe mass/lesion daily, twice a week, or weekly.
 - b. Segregate from cage mates.
 - c. Place on Alpha-dri® bedding.
 - d. Change environmental enrichment type.
 - e. Apply topical lidocaine gel daily or twice weekly.
 - f. Drain/debride abscesses.
 - g. Treatments as deemed necessary by 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 Veterinarian 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 Veterinarian. The investigator will be notified. 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.
7. Should the condition cause unrelieved pain or the animal fail to respond to treatment, the investigator will be notified and euthanasia recommended.