

SOP No: AHT 27(a)

SUBJECT: Toe clipping in mice

POLICY: Where it is necessary to permanently identify mice, the least painful method must be used. Where possible, the same tissue should also be used for tissue typing where required. Fore limbs should be used in preference to the hind limbs.

This procedure must be performed by an experienced operator.

Only one digit may be removed from each extremity.

Ossification of the toe begins at 10 – 14 days, mice must be toe clipped when <14 days

PRECAUTIONS: Gloves, mask, long-sleeve gown, closed in shoes

EQUIPMENT scalpel blade or
sharp scissors
dilute betadine/alcohol

PROCEDURE:

1. Hold the mice by the scruff
2. Sterilise the foot using dilute betadine/alcohol
3. Using scissors or scalpel blade cut off no more than one digit from each extremity
4. Apply pressure with a sterile swab to encourage clotting

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consider alternative sources of identification (tattoo, microchip, ear punch)

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REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. Methods of Identification in *Handbook of Laboratory Animal Science 2nd Edition*; Vol I Essential Principles and Practices, (2002) Edited by J. Hau and G.L. VanHoosier, Jr., CRC Press, pp363-365
2. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, National Research Council, National Academy Press, 1996, page 46.
3. National Institutes of Health, ARAC, Guidelines for Toe Clipping of Rodents, Revised 5/12/04, (<http://oacu.od.nih.gov/ARAC/>)