

**SOP No:** AHT 27(e)

**SUBJECT:** Micro chipping in Rodents

**POLICY:** This procedure must be performed by an experienced operator.  
Chip sizes must be appropriate for the size of the animal and should be tested before implanting.

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

**EQUIPMENT** microchips  
AVID® mini-tracker (or similar)  
needle and syringe implanter (fit for purpose)  
anaesthetic of choice (if necessary)  
70% ethanol  
betadine

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Sterilize needles and chips in 70% alcohol and place the chip into the needle.
2. Record the chip number
3. Either restrain or lightly anaesthetise the animal
4. Swab the area on the shoulder or flank of the animal or over the femoral artery close to the groin using 70% ethanol and betadine.
5. Insert the needle subcutaneously until halfway in.
6. Inject the chip and remove the needle while holding the chip in place.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Microchipping may result in the development of spontaneous tumors at the site. Chipped animals should be monitored continuously for any changes.
2. Immediately following the insertion of the chip, monitor the site for the development of any abscessation.

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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. Methods for the Identification of Laboratory Mice and Rats. (1998) Weyand, M.E. *Lab Animal*, 27:47-50
3. Le Calvez S, Perron-Lepage M-F, Burnett R. *Subcutaneous microchip-associated tumours in B6C3F1 mice: a retrospective study to attempt to determine their histogenesis. Exp Toxicol Pathol* 2006; 57:255-265.