

- SOP No:** AHT 16
- SUBJECT:** Base of tail subcutaneous (SC) injection into the mouse (September 2015)
- POLICY:** This procedure may only be performed by operators skilled in the technique.  
The amount to be injected must not exceed the recommended volume for this route and site of injection as per NHMRC guidelines.
- PRECAUTIONS:** Gloves, eye protection, long-sleeved gown, closed in shoes
- EQUIPMENT:** Restraint device  
1 ml syringe  
25G needle  
Tissues  
1% solution Virkon in spray bottle  
70 % Ethanol in a spray bottle  
Chemical to be injected  
Recovery cage
- PROCEDURE:**
- Restrain the mouse.
  - Spray the base of the tail with 70% ethanol and gently part the fur at the base of the tail.
  - Hold the needle in the same plane as the tail meets the body and insert the needle subcutaneously. The needle should enter the skin where the base of the tail meets the body.
  - Pull back on plunger to ensure the needle is inserted subcutaneously. Slowly inject the material ensuring that the needle has been inserted correctly and that an intradermal “bleb” does not appear.
  - Remove the mouse from the restraint and place into a separate cage. Repeat the procedure for the remaining animals to be injected remembering to change the needle between animals.
  - Carefully monitor all the injected animals for 15min to ensure that they are displaying normal behaviour
  - Record the details of the injection on the cage card and room diary. This should include the date of injection, material injected and route of injection.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Refer to NHMRC guidelines when determining the volume to be injected

**DATE ISSUED:** 28.10.2009

**REVISED:** 9/10/2015  
12/09/2012



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**CHAIR OF AEC**

#### **REFERENCES**

1. National Health and Medical Research Council (2008); Guidelines to Promote the Wellbeing of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes – The assessment and Alleviation of Pain and Distress in Research Animals.  
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/index.htm>