Toe Clipping in Mice

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Uses

- Genotyping
- Mouse identification
Guide p. 75 on Toe Clipping

As a method of identification of small rodents, toe-clipping should be used only when no other individual identification method is feasible. It may be the preferred method for neonatal mice up to 7 days of age as it appears to have few adverse effects on behavior and well-being at this age (Castelhano-Carlos et al. 2010; Schaefer et al. 2010), especially if toe clipping and genotyping can be combined. Under all circumstances aseptic practices should be followed. Use of anesthesia or analgesia should be commensurate with the age of the animals (Hankenson et al. 2008)
UTD Policy

• Up to P7 – No anesthesia/analgesia required
• P7-12 – Anesthesia required
• P13+ prohibited
• For ID purposes – justification required
• Aseptic technique – alcohol minimum
• Bleeding control – required
• As it has potential for pain/distress justification required

P = Postnatal day
## Alternatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Genotyping</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toe clipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tail clipping</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear punch</td>
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<td>Tattooing</td>
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<td>Metal ear tag</td>
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<td>Microchip</td>
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<td>Toe nail clipping</td>
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<td>Blood sampling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dye on skin/hair clip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saliva/epithelial cells</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Rectal scrapings/feces</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Hair follicles</td>
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Technique

- Up to P7: Anesthesia/analgesia not required
- P8+: Anesthesia/analgesia required
- Use sharp scissors
- Wipe toes and scissors with alcohol
- Remove most distal phalanx
- Apply gauze
Anesthesia

• Gas - isoflurane
• Topical
• Local with lidocaine with epinephrine
• Local hypothermia
Isoflurane

- Vaporizer induction chamber
- Open drop technique
Isoflurane - Vaporizer

- Induction chamber
  - 3-5% isoflurane
  - 0.5 L/min oxygen
Isoflurane - Open Drop

Pathology cassette with isoflurane soaked material

Centrifuge tube
Depth of anesthesia can be controlled by moving the nose cone closer or farther away from the nostrils

Wire or plastic grate

Absorbent material
Isoflurane soaked

Depth of anesthesia can be controlled by moving the nose cone closer or farther away from the nostrils.
Open Drop

- Scavenging required (e.g., fume hood)
- Used for short term anesthesia (vs. calibrated vaporizer)
- Prolonged use results in deaths
Topical Anesthesia

- Cetacaine
  - Benzocaine, Butamben & Tetracaine
- Ethyl chloride
  - Topical anesthetic skin refrigerant
  - Flammable
Local Anesthesia

- Infiltration: Lidocaine 2% with Epinephrine 1:100,000
- Epinephrine?
  - Prolongs anesthetic effect of lidocaine
  - Vasoconstriction facilitates hemostasis
- Helpful for clipping older mice (with justification)
Bleeding Control

- Kwik Stop
- Silver Nitrate
- Gauze