

IACUC Policy on Multiple Survival Surgery Procedures

Definitions:

Major surgery: Major surgery penetrates and exposes a body cavity or produces substantial impairment of physical or physiological functions (such as laparotomy, thoracotomy, craniotomy, joint replacement, or limb amputation).

Survival surgery: Survival surgery is any surgical procedure in which the animal is allowed to recover from anesthesia.

Policy:

1. Multiple major survival surgical procedures on a single animal are discouraged but may be permitted if scientifically justified by the user and approved by the IACUC.
2. Multiple major survival surgical procedures can be justified if they are:
 - a. Included in and essential components of a single research project or protocol
 - b. Scientifically justified by the Investigator, or
 - c. Necessary for clinical reasons
3. For USDA-covered species, the Institutional Official must submit a request to the USDA/APHIS and receive approval in order to allow an animal to undergo multiple survival procedures in separate unrelated research protocols.
4. The IACUC will pay particular attention to animal well-being through continuing evaluation of outcomes.
5. Cost savings alone is not adequate reason for performing multiple major survival surgical procedures.
6. Some procedures characterized as minor may induce substantial post-procedural pain or impairment and should similarly be scientifically justified, if performed more than once in a single animal.