

von Frey test

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Abstract

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Protocol

Step 1.

Mice are allowed 30 min of habituation to the same Plexiglas enclosure (9 cm L \times 5 cm W \times 5 cm H) on a wire-mesh floor (aquarium/vivarium top) instead of a glass floor. The test was applied before (basal measure), and after (15 and 30 min) the intraplantar injection of crotamine (1 or 5 μ g/animal paw).

Step 2.

For assessment of mechanical sensitivity thresholds, mice are tested with von Frey type nylon monofilaments.

Step 3.

A set of 1 calibrated Von Frey fibers, ranging from 0.1 g until 80 g of pressure force, but about 18 g are applied to the plantar surface of the hindpaw until they bend.

Step 4.

The threshold force required to elicit withdrawal of the paw (median 50% paw withdrawal) is determined using the up-down method.

Step 5.

The stimulation was repeated until the animals presented two similar measures, and all testing was blind in regard to the group designation.

Step 6.