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Slice preparation

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Abstract

Slice preparation for electrophysiology



Animal sacrifice and surgical procedure

- 1 Anesthetize the animal under halothane
- 2 Decapitate the animal with a guillotine
- 3 Gently open the bones of the skull and remove the brain, dropping it into a beaker containing ice-cold ACSF continuously bubbled with an O₂/CO₂ (95/5%) gas mixture
- 3.1 ACSF composition (in mM): 126 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1.2 MgCl₂, 1.2 NaH₂PO₄, 2.4 CaCl₂, 10 glucose and 25 NaHCO₃.

Brain slices cutting

- 4 After 1 min, place the brain on a petri dish with filter paper soaked with ACSF, and then separate the region of interest with a razor blade
- 5 Stick the piece of brain on the appropriate magnetic surface provided by the Leica VT1200S microtome with cyanoacrylate glue, and place it in the cutting chamber filled with ice-cold ACSF
- 6 Proceed with the slicing procedure (250 µm thick) and remove the surrounding tissue in each slice, to isolate the area of interest
- 7 The slices are then left to recover for at least 1 hr in saturated ACSF at 32°C