

FEB 05, 2024

## Stereotactic Injections in Mouse and Rat

Joris Van Asselberghs<sup>1</sup>, Veerle Baekelandt<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>KULeuven

ASAP Collaborative Research Network



Joris Van Asselberghs

### ABSTRACT

This protocol outlines procedures for Stereotactic Injections in Mouse and Rat.

### ATTACHMENTS

[STEREOTACTIC\\_INJECTIONS\\_IN\\_MOUSE\\_AND\\_RAT.pdf](#)

OPEN ACCESS



#### DOI:

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bp2l6b1qzgqe/v1](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bp2l6b1qzgqe/v1)

**Protocol Citation:** Joris Van Asselberghs, Veerle Baekelandt 2024. Stereotactic Injections in Mouse and Rat. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bp2l6b1qzgqe/v1>

**License:** This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

**Protocol status:** Working  
We use this protocol and it's working

**Created:** Nov 07, 2020

PROTOCOL integer ID: 44296

**Keywords:** brain, neurological, rat, mouse, injections, inj, stereotactic, ASAPCRN

### Anesthesia Reagents Needed and Preparation

- **Rats** (60 mg/kg Ketamine ; 0.4 mg/kg medetomidine):
  - 0.60 ml Nimatek + 0.40 ml Domitor + 1.00 ml Saline = 2 ml anesthetic cocktail
  - Use: *0.15 ml / 100 g of body weight*
  - Administration route: IP
  - If the injection is given properly, the rat will sleep in 2 minutes
- **Mouse** (75 mg/kg ketamine ; 1 mg/kg medetomidine):
  - 0.15 ml Nimatek + 0.20 ml Domitor + 1.65 ml Saline = 2 ml anesthetic cocktail
  - Use: *0.1 ml / 10 g of body weight*
  - Administration route: IP
  - If the injection is given properly, the mouse will sleep in 2 minutes

### Reversal of Anesthesia Reagents Needed and Preparation

- **Rats:**
  - 1.0 ml Antisedan + 4.0 ml Saline = 5 ml antidote
  - Use: *0.2 ml / 100g of body weight*
  - Administration route: IP
- **Mouse:**
  - 0.1 ml Antisedan + 9.9 ml Saline = 10 ml antidote
  - Use: *0.1 ml / 10 g of body weight*
  - Administration route: IP

### Analgesia (Post - operative analgesia)

- Dilute Vetergesic 10x
- **Rats:** 150 µl / 100 g of body weight
- **Mice:** 30 µl / 10 g of body weight
- Analgesic effect will last 8-12 hours
- Put liquid Xylocaine drops upon the skull if you notice that the animal is suffering pain.

### Materials Needed

- Big scissors (for the hair), small scissors, curved forceps, needle holder, spatula, scalpel holder
- Xylocaine 2%, joodalcohol, Vidisic
- Chip(holder)
- Magnifier, blade nr 10, wire 3-0 (Rat) / 4-0 (Mouse)
- 10 ml syringe + pink needle, small tissues (sterile)
- Small pots to rinse the Hamilton syringe (RBS, ETOH, PBS, PBS, AD)

- 4x 1 ml syringe + needle (anesthesia, reversed, painkiller, +1)
- Hamilton syringe + needle
- Pipet + tips + eppendorfs

#### SAFETY WARNINGS





Please refer to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for health and environmental hazards.

## Procedure

6m

- 1 Remove hair and put [IM] 2 % Xylocaine gel on top of the head and into the ears.
- 2 Put Vidisic on the eyes.
- 3 Put a chip under the skin to mark the animal.
- 4 Fix the animal into the stereotactic apparatus (use the mouse adaptor for mouse and only the ear clamps for rat). Put a tissue over the animal to keep it warm during surgery.
- 5 Make sure that the left and right side of the skull is positioned as straight as possible (ears).
- 6 Use [IM] 1 % joodalcohol to clean the top of the head and make an incision with a scalpel.

- 7 Clean the skull with a spatula and saline and let dry until bregma and lambda are clearly visible.
- 8 Check volume and injection speed of the pump, rinse Hamilton syringe with RBS, ETOH and PBS. (Coat the syringe by taking a full syringe of vector and discard in eppendorf). Put vector in the syringe ( $\pm 1.5 \mu\text{l}$  more than you want to inject) and make sure there are no air bubbles.
- 9 Make sure bregma and lambda have the same height, correct the position of the head if there's a difference of more than 0.02cm.
- 10 Put the needle at the right position using bregma as a reference (find the right coordinates using the stereotactic atlas of mouse or rat).
- 11 Drill a small hole into the skull at this position until the dura mater is visible.
- 12 Make a small hole into the dura mater using a thin needle.
- 13 Put the Hamilton needle at the right position (go down slowly to prevent tissue damage) and wait for  00:01:00 . 1m
- 14 Inject vector at max. 0.25  $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$ .

**15** Wait  00:05:00 after injection in order to let the vector diffuse into the brain.

5m

**16** Remove the needle slowly.

**17** Close the skin and disinfect with joodalcohol.

**18** Rinse Hamilton syringe with RBS, ETOH, PBS and AD.