JUN 09, 2023

Transcardiac Perfusion of Mouse for Brain Tissue

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ABSTRACT

Transcardiac perfusion is a method used for clearing blood and preserving the mouse brain for immunostaining.

Protocol Citation: Maryana Nissan, divya.darwinarulseeli 2023. Transcardiac Perfusion of Mouse for Brain Tissue. **protocols.io** https://protocols.io/view/transcardiac-perfusion-of-mouse-for-brain-tissue-cvfnw3me

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

Created: Jun 09, 2023

Last Modified: Jun 09, 2023

PROTOCOL integer ID: 83150

Keywords: ASAPCRN

1 Add Neutralizing Agent to break down Paraformaldehyde [PFA] for proper disposal. We use Hydeaway [CAT #2201 from Decon Labs]

2 Turn on perfusion apparatus and place tube into 1X Phosphate-Buffered Saline [PBS]

3 Wash system for 1 round, until the tube is saturated with 1X PBS

4 Saturate anesthetic chamber with Isoflurane

5 Place mouse in anesthetic chamber for about 1 minute

6 Remove mouse from anesthetic chamber and check reflexes by pinching foot

7 If reflex is active, place mouse back into chamber. If not, proceed

8 Grip the skin on the chest with forceps, make an incision beneath the ribcage to expose the diaphragm and liver

9 Carefully make incisions along the diaphragm to expose the heart

10 Tighten the skin with hemostatic forceps, twist, and retract back to expose the heart

11 Secure the heart with forceps with minimal pressure, insert needle about a depth of 1.5 mm into the left ventricle

12 Puncture the aorta, causing dark venous blood to flow out immediately

13 Wait until the blood gets cleared and lighter in color, until you notice white drops

14 Switch out the tube from 1X PBS into 4% PFA

15 4% PFA will cause the body to become stiff

16 Allow 100mL of 4% PFA to circulate the body

17 Stop circulation and remove needle from the heart