

# HOW TO USE ANESTHESIA ON SMALL ANIMALS

# Visual inspection of the anesthesia apparatus

- Inspect the anesthesia equipment before starting to use it
- When you start, the vaporizer should be filled to its max; if not, report
- Make sure the anesthesia line and the exhaust are plugged into the chamber
- The exhaust hole should not be completely covered with tape
- Faults must be logged in MR logbook and reported to Kai or Tina

#### Initialization of anesthesia in the anesthesia chamber

- Place a clean paper towel on the bottom of the chamber for animal to lie on
- Connect gas lines into the wall (oxygen  $O_2$  + nitrous oxide  $N_2O$ )
- Turn on the flow of  $O_2$  (300-500 cc/min) to fill the tubes and chambers
- Put the animal in the anesthesia chamber and let it get a few min of O<sub>2</sub>
- Turn on the anesthetic gas Isoflurane to 3-4%, Sevoflurane to 6-8 %
- If needed, turn on the flow of N<sub>2</sub>O

#### Moving the animal over to a mask

- When the animal is breathing slow and steady, move it over to a mask, either on the preparation table for tail-vein cannulation or MRI table for scanning
- Regulate down the concentration of anesthetic gas (Isoflurane 1-2%)
- Adjust the gas flow (400 cc/min for rats, 100 cc/min for mice)
- Give 50% O<sub>2</sub> during maintenance of anesthesia

# Maintaining anesthesia during scanning

- Monitor animal respiration and temperature (see separate note for details)
- Respiration should be 30-70 for rats and 50-100 for mice
- Regulate the breathing rate by increasing/decreasing Isoflurane level
- Temperature should be at 37.0 °C for rats and 37.5 °C for mice
- Regulate temperature by increase/decreasing T setting on the water heater

#### To end anesthesia

- Turn off the evaporator
- Turn off N<sub>2</sub>O
- Let the animal breathe pure O<sub>2</sub> (either in the chamber or mask)

# Animal care after anesthesia

- Monitor the animal at least 5 min to make sure it recovers well
- Provide water as the anesthetic may dehydrate the animal
- Keep the animal warm
- Do not leave unconscious animal in the cage as the mates might pick on him

# Disconnecting gases and turning off anesthesia

- Disconnect the gas lines from the wall
- Remember to disconnect both  $O_2$  and  $N_2O$  If lines are left connected overnight, the user will be charged for gas leaked

### Filling up the evaporator with liquid anesthetic

- Make sure the flow is off. Unscrew the small cap at the fill port, insert the liquid transfer tube and carefully pour Isoflorane/Sevoflorane into the basin
- Once the gage shows full, stop filling, remove the transfer tube, position back the cap, and tighten the screw
- Wipe off any extra liquid and wash your hands

#### Cleaning the anesthesia chamber and the operation table

- Spray with Desidos solution, let it act for 10 min, then wipe off
- Spray with H<sub>2</sub>O and wipe off with paper towel