

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY STATEMENT

Avertin Anesthesia

Avertin (tribromoethanol) has been widely used as an injectable anesthetic agent especially for short surgical procedures (vasectomy and embryo transfer) necessary for the creation of transgenic mice. Reports concerning the safety and efficacy of tribromoethanol anesthesia are mixed. The two major advantages of tribromoethanol anesthesia are; it is relatively inexpensive and it is not a controlled drug and is therefore readily available. Disadvantages include preparation and handling which are critical to shelf life, need for testing each "new" batch for effective dose, possibility of high mortality, and risk of peritonitis.

Recent reports in the literature have compared tribromoethanol with combination anesthesia and found the advantages to these combination anesthetics. However, the IACUC recognizes that certain investigators may have extensive experience with the use of tribromoethanol anesthesia and are satisfied with its efficacy and safety.

The IACUC requests that the following items be addressed in the Animal Activity Protocol prior to approval of the use of tribromoethanol anesthesia.

1. Investigator should consider the use of other combination anesthetics and consult with LAF veterinarians prior to choosing tribromoethanol over other anesthetic combinations.
2. Investigator should include his/her protocol for preparation (include method to insure sterility), storage (including shelf life), and handling of laboratory-prepared tribromoethanol.
3. Investigator should provide his/her protocol for determining accurate dosing of each new batch of tribromoethanol.

IACUC Approved 1/15/02
Reviewed: 9/20/11