Perfusion Safety

Follow these precautions when conducting rodent perfusions with formalin solution.

Set-up work area

Turn on hose at downdraft table.

Direct water flow away from the downdraft table ventilation intake to prevent water infiltration into the ventilation ductwork.

If giving multiple injections of an anesthetizing agent, don’t re-cap needles. Place uncapped needles in a rigid tray between uses.

Put on personal protective equipment

Wear gloves, preferably nitrile, disposable gown, head covering, surgical mask and safety glasses.

Note: 10% neutral buffered formalin is approximately 4% formaldehyde

Formaldehyde solution splashes to the eye can damage the cornea

Clean up the area

Formalin solution/blood waste created during a rodent perfusion should be collected and disposed of through the EHS Chemical Waste Program.

Wash downdraft table, including underside of perforated table surface. Disinfect with Virkon® or other LAR-approved disinfectant.

After removing PPE, place soiled PPE in regulated medical waste container and wash hands.

Report exposures to formalin solution / rodent body fluids

Eyes: rinse at eyewash for 15 minutes
Percutaneous injuries: rinse with warm water/soap.
Report all exposures, regardless of severity, to Employee Health (258-5035) and your supervisor.

EHS Contact: Jacqueline Wagner, Biosafety Officer, 258-1427