



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

# Operating Guidelines

OG Number:	307	<b>Tuberculosis testing in Nonhuman Primates</b>	Revision #:	0
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## Procedures

1. Ensure that Mammalian Old Tuberculin (MOT) is in stock and within date prior to scheduling TB tests.
2. Withdraw a 0.1 ml aliquot of undiluted tuberculin from the 10 ml vial.
3. Recap the needle using the one-handed technique.
4. When ready to perform the injection, inject the tuberculin intradermally in the upper eyelid (intrapalpebrally) near the margin of the lid.
  - a. The eyelid may be swabbed with an alcohol pad prior to injection.
  - b. A 5-8 mm bleb will be raised if the injection is performed properly.
5. Record the eye lid used in the animal's record. **Note:** alternate eyelids at each test
6. If an eye/eyelid is damaged sufficiently to interfere with administration/test evaluation:
  - a. Use the opposite eyelid for testing.
  - b. Note accordingly in the animal's record to allow for accurate test evaluation.

## Interpretation:

1. Examine the test site at 24, 48 and 72 hours post- tuberculin administration prior to morning break time.

2. Record the results in the animal's medical record when the tests are read.
3. TB test interpretation:
  0. No inflammation/reaction – negative
  1. Bruising, no swelling - negative
  2. Minor swelling - negative
  3. Droopy eyelid (less than halfway over the eye) - positive
  4. Drooping halfway over the eye with varying degrees of erythema - positive
  5. Swelling and/or necrosis with eyelid closed - positive
4. If the test result is positive, the veterinary staff will decide whether to
  - a. Retest and further evaluate, and/or
  - b. Perform thoracic radiography, or
  - c. Sacrifice the positive reactor/suspect animal(s).
5. Re-testing can involve:
  - a. Using the other eyelid,
  - b. Performing an intradermal skin test on the abdomen using saline as a negative control (mounting evidence that this method may be significantly less sensitive than the palpebral test),
  - c. Prima TB stat pak assay, and/or Primagam
  - d. The selection of the secondary test is up to the discretion of the veterinary staff.

**Alternative Testing Method:**

1. If MOT is unavailable, an acceptable alternative to eyelid testing is PCR for *Mycobacterium* complex using whole blood.
  - a. Sedate NHP
  - b. Withdraw the appropriate amount of blood for the test into the appropriate vials (ex: for VRL Diagnostic laboratories, 5mL of whole blood in EDTA is required for testing) and invert the tube 8-10 times.
  - c. Return NHP to home enclosure and monitor until recovered
    - i. Per DVM, NHP may receive a reversal agent (i.e., atipamezole) during recovery
  - d. Ship blood tubes along with appropriate submission paperwork to the diagnostic laboratory per shipping recommendations.

REVISION HISTORY			
REVISION NUMBER	AUTHOR(S)	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION(S)