

Tel-Aviv University –Safety Unit

Standard Operating Procedure for Doxorubicin (Adriamycin) in Animals

1. Health hazards	<p>Doxorubicin, is drug belonging to the anthracycline family (polyketides containing a tetracenequinone ring structure with a sugar attached by glycosidic linkage), which is used as chemotherapeutic drug for treating a variety cancer diseases. Doxorubicin is an antibiotic anthracycline compound isolated from cultures of <i>Streptomyces peucetius</i> var. <i>caesius</i>.</p> <p>Doxorubicin binds to nucleic acids, presumably by specific intercalation of the planar anthracycline nucleus with the DNA double helix intercalation (squeezing between the base pairs). Doxorubicin may also inhibit polymerase activity, affect regulation of gene expression, and produce free radical damage to DNA.</p> <p>Statement of Hazard:</p> <p>May cause CANCER.</p> <p>Drugs of this class have been associated with rare, but potentially, serious cardiac events. These events have not been observed from occupational exposures, however, those with preexisting cardiovascular illnesses may be at increased risk from exposure. The heart problems may occur, months to years after exposure.</p> <p>May cause a severe decrease in the number of blood cells in the bone marrow.</p> <p>Harmful by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed.</p> <p>May cause eye and skin irritation</p> <p>May damage fertility or the unborn child.</p> <p>As a precautionary measure, keep away from strong oxidizers (such as bleach).</p> <p>*Pregnant women should not be exposed to or handle this cytotoxic in any form - May damage fertility or the unborn child - May cause genetic defects.*</p>
2. Designated Area	ABSL-2 facility.
3. Training	Hazardous cytotoxic training and training on this SOP is required before working with Doxorubicin. This should include but is not limited to reviewing the MSDS, training on the physical hazards of the cytotoxics, symptoms of exposure, appropriate work

	practices, and proper use of PPE.
4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<p>Double nitrile gloves or compatible cytotoxic-resistant gloves, Cytotoxic safety goggles, Lab coat and mask. Appropriate PPE should also be used for lower arms such as sleeve covers or securing gloves over the sleeves of laboratory coat.</p> <p>There are no established safe levels of exposure to cytotoxic drugs. Medical opinion is that even small quantities of cytotoxic drugs and their metabolites should be avoided as much as possible.</p> <p>The safest approach therefore is to reduce occupational exposure to levels as low as reasonably achievable.</p> <p><i>Pregnant women should not be exposed to or handle this cytotoxic in any form.</i></p>
5. General . Precautions for use of cytotoxic drug on Animal	<p>The main routes of exposure to cytotoxic drugs are through the inhalation of drug particles or aerosols, skin absorption, inadvertent ingestion through contact with contaminated food or cigarettes, and needle stick injuries .</p> <p>Exposure may occur during preparation and administration of the drugs, handling of body fluids from animals receiving cytotoxic drugs, handling and disposal of cytotoxic wastes and related trace contaminated material, and transportation of cytotoxic drugs.</p> <p>Some cytotoxic drugs have a direct irritant effect on the mucous membranes, eyes and skin.</p> <p>Spills onto skin surfaces that have cuts or abrasions and punctures of the skin with a contaminated needle or broken glass can lead to severe soft tissue injury. They should be treated immediately and observed for potential problems.</p> <p>Tools (as, syringe, blades and safety needles where possible) should be adapted for BSL-2. Have a sharps container in close vicinity.</p> <p>Animals should be restrained or anesthetized during injection.</p> <p>Doxorubicin excreted by the animals, post injection, therefore the bedding is considered as contaminated.</p>
6. Environmental / Ventilation Controls	<p>The preparation of Doxorubicin including reconstitution, weighing, and diluting should be performed in a fume hood or biological safety cabinet (class II Type B). Work should be done over absorbent pads.</p> <p>Following preparation of Doxorubicin, the work area should be thoroughly cleaned with soap and water or with virusolve.</p> <p>Work should be conducted in ABSL-2 facility, over absorbent pads in a class II type A1</p>

	<p>or A2 biological cabinet.</p>
<p>7. Special Handling Procedures & Storage Requirements</p>	<p>Handling: Doxorubicin should be handled in containment and done over absorbent pads.</p> <p>Any visible contamination or spills should be cleaned with virusolve and then washed with water. Any wipes contaminated with Doxorubicin must be disposed as Cytotoxic hazardous waste.</p> <p>Releases of Doxorubicin to the environment should be avoided.</p> <p>Utilize safe sharps procedures (i.e. sharps container in the immediate vicinity, Leurlock syringes are recommended). The fume hood or other approved containment must be cleaned upon completion of tasks.</p> <p>Any laboratory equipment or surfaces that have come in contact with Doxorubicin must be disposed of (cytotoxic cytotoxic waste) or decontaminated (wipe with virusolve follow by water soaked paper towels) Non-porous material (e.g. glassware) can be decontaminated by soaking in virusolve for 24 hours.</p> <p>Upon completion, soak all surgical equipment in 80%(v/v) ethanol for at least one hour before washing with soap and water and autoclaving.</p> <p>When transporting Doxorubicin, the vials should be placed in secondary, sealed, plastic, labeled, non-breakable containers.</p> <p>All equipment must be decontaminated prior to removal from the room housing the infected animals.</p> <p>DO NOT use bleach for disinfection of work surfaces where Doxorubicin has been used.</p> <p><u>Hands must be washed upon exiting animal room.</u></p>
<p>8. Precautions for Animal Use</p>	<p>No recapping needles. Have a sharps container in close vicinity. Animals should be restrained or anesthetized during injection. Once Doxorubicin is injected, animals , animal waste and cages are considered hazardous.</p> <p>Hands must be washed upon exiting animal room.</p>
<p>9. Animal handling practices</p>	<p>1. Animals must be housed in filter top cages marked as biohazards (including the name of the pathogen/biohazard). Handling the cages (including bedding) will be done only by the researchers.</p> <p>2. Use a class II Biological Safety Cabinet at all times (especially during injection or any surgical procedure), when performing work on these animals and/or when moving animals from dirty to clean cages.</p>

3. Injecting animals with Doxorubicin: Animals will be injected IP with Doxorubicin within Class II Biosafety cabinet or designated cytotoxic fume hood.

All needles will be disposed of in sharps container – do not recap or bend needles.

4. Infected animals considered hazardous; take precautions to avoid the creation of aerosols when changing or washing cages, or cleaning the room.

A respirator is recommended for personnel that are immunocompromised and for healthy personnel if work is done outside the ventilated cabinet.

5. Care should be taken to avoid exposure to bedding dust when handling exposed animals and their waste materials during this time.

6. Dead animals must be placed in primary plastic bags, which are then placed in biosafety bags for infectious waste incineration.

7. All surfaces and racks that may be contaminated will be decontaminated with virusolve followed by water ASAP.

8. The bedding is considered contaminated and requires special handling.

When changing cages, use the following technique:

- Transfer the animals to clean cages .
- Decontaminate the used cages with virusolve.
- Insert the used cages in a plastic bag .
- Twist the ends of full bags, and seal with tape. Label with wide tape or other type of label marked “toxin- Doxorubicin.
- Transport the bags of cages to a HEPA filtered dumping station that draws air away from the use (or BSC Type II), it is recommended to use a fume hood.
- If local ventilation controls are not available for opening cages or dumping bedding, an N-99 respirator and safety goggles must be worn.
- All contaminated bedding will be labeled as hazardous materials and handled accordingly :
incinerated or placed in cytotoxic waste bags for disposal.
- Use virusolve to decontaminate the cages, then put in plastic bags (marked “toxin- Doxorubicin) and sealed for transport to the washroom.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the washroom ,cages should be unloaded from the bags with the appropriate PPE as mentioned above and run through the cage wash in the conventional manner. Note- cage wash personnel that meet the criteria for extra precautions above (pregnant exc.) should take extra precautions (additional PPE) when handling cages that may have Doxorubicin contamination.
<p>10. Spill and Accident Procedures</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spills must be cleaned immediately by properly protected trained personnel wearing a gown, goggles, two pairs of gloves (nitrile) and respirator mask covering the mouth and nose . Minor Liquid Spills: should be cleaned immediately by personnel wearing a PPE. Use absorbent pads to wipe liquid. The spill area should then be cleaned thoroughly with virusolve (<i>allow at least 15 minutes</i>) and then wash the area with soap and water. Place waste in plastic bag and then in the cytotoxic waste container. Powder/Major Spills: should be cleaned immediately by personnel wearing a PPE. For powder or major liquid spills outside of a fume hood or approved containment, personnel should be instructed to leave the laboratory and entrance should be restricted for at least 30 min. In addition to the above specified PPE, a respirator and safety goggles, should also be worn. Contain or absorb spill with absorbent material, it may be helpful to lightly wet the absorbent material. Wipe the area with virusolve 1-2 times (<i>allow at least 15 minutes</i>) and then wash the area with soap and water. Collect and place waste in plastic bag and then in the cytotoxic waste container. <p>**Prevent, by any means available, spillage from entering drains or water courses.**</p> <p><u>Exposure:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In case of injection with Doxorubicin, wash the affected area with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Consult with Employee Health Center. Eye Contact: Flush with water while holding eyelids open for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical attention immediately. Skin Contact: Remove contaminated clothing. Flush area with large amounts of water. Use soap. Seek medical attention. Inhalation: Remove to fresh air and keep patient at rest. Seek medical attention immediately.

	Report the accident/injury to the Biosafety Unit.
11. Waste Disposal	Dispose all waste material in the appropriate cytotoxic waste container. Unused solutions of Doxorubicin and contaminated solid waste will be disposed of as hazardous cytotoxic material. Releases of Doxorubicin to the environment should be avoided.
I hereby confirm that I have read the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for Working with Doxorubicin in Animals, and agree to follow these procedures.	
Name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

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