

<b>University Animal Care Committee Standard Operating Procedure</b>		
<b>Document No:</b> 7.17	<b>Subject: Acute DSS Colitis (Mouse Model)</b>	
<b>Date Issued:</b> February 16, 2012	<b>Revision:</b> 3	<b>Page No:</b> 1

**Location:** Queen's University

**Responsibility:** Principal Investigators, Research Staff, Veterinary Staff

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe generating an acute colitis model of intestinal inflammation using Dextran Sodium Sulphate (DSS).

**1. Introduction and Definitions:** Dextran sodium sulfate (DSS) is a molecule that induces colitis like that seen in human patients. It is administered to the animal via their drinking water. This is a common model of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), the condition of chronic intestinal inflammation that is currently incurable.

Optimal DSS concentrations are determined by preliminary experiments, as disease severity often varies dependent on animal age, gender, and strain. Standard drinking water is given to controls.

**Abbreviations:** Animal Care Services **ACS**, Principal Investigator **PI**, subcutaneous **SC**, intravenous **IV**, intraperitoneal **IP**, intramuscular **IM**, per os **PO**, per rectum **PR**

## **2. Materials:**

- Water bottles
- DSS solution
- Lactated Ringer's Solution
- 1-3mL sterile syringes
- Sterile needles (26-27 gauge)
- Alcohol swabs
- Weigh scale

## **3. Procedures:**

- Prior to the initiation of a DSS cycle, all study mice must be weighed to obtain a baseline weight and it is recorded with the date on the cage card. Based on the baseline weight, the 5%, 10% and 15% weight loss values are calculated (*see Appendix 1*).
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- DSS is dissolved into standard drinking water to yield the desired concentration (2.5%-5%) ("%" = g/100mL).
- Regular water bottles are removed from the cages and replaced with the DSS dosed bottles.
- DSS is administered in drinking water for 5 days, followed by a return to regular water.
- Non-standard water bottles are used for the DSS mice, and a special request is required for them. Special requests must be submitted to ACS.

### **Monitoring:**

- Ensure that cages are flagged with specific ACS cage alerts that animals are on a DSS study.
- Daily monitoring: cages are checked for DSS water consumption (volume drop in bottle, urine output) and bottles are topped up as necessary.
- Daily weight, appearance, and behavioural changes must be recorded at room level.
- All mice in a DSS treated group must receive a daily subcutaneous injection of 1mL Lactated Ringer's Solution (LRS). Every animal requires a new sterile syringe and needle, refer to SOP 7.9.1 "Subcutaneous Injections in Mice". Mice must be weighed before fluid therapy administered.

### **Clinical Outcomes:**

- Treated mice may develop loose stool or diarrhea with detectable blood in stool.
  - Mice show ruffled fur and weight loss while the colitis is present.
  - Weight loss should not reach a 15% decrease from baseline value, unless approved within the Animal Use Protocol.
  - All humane endpoints as approved in the Animal Use Protocol must be followed.
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Appendix 1:

**Weight Loss Chart**

<b>Starting weight (g)</b>	<b>Weight at 5% weight loss (g)</b>	<b>Weight at 10% weight loss (g)</b>	<b>Weight at 15% weight loss (g)</b>	<b>Weight at 20% weight loss (g)</b>
18g	17.10g	16.20g	15.30g	14.40g
19	18.05	17.10	16.15	15.20
20	19.00	18.00	17.00	16.00
21	19.95	18.90	17.85	16.80
22	20.90	19.80	18.70	17.60
23	21.85	20.70	19.55	18.40
24	22.80	21.60	20.40	19.20
25	23.75	22.50	21.25	20.00
26	24.70	23.40	22.10	20.80
27	25.65	24.30	22.95	21.60
28	26.60	25.20	23.80	22.40
29	27.55	26.10	24.65	23.20
30	28.50	27.00	25.50	24.00
31	29.45	27.90	26.35	24.80
32	30.40	28.80	27.20	25.60
33	31.35	29.70	28.05	26.40
34	32.30	30.60	28.95	27.20
35	33.25	31.50	29.75	28.00

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**References:**

**SOP Revision History:**

Date	New Version
February 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SOP Created
April 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Update
February 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Triennial Review
October 17 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Triennial Review - Layout change