

Column E Explanation
Facility Registration Number: 43-R-0009

Number of animals in Column E: 121

Species: Hamsters

Explain the procedure producing pain and/or distress:

Hamsters were exposed to an infectious disease via intracerebral injection. Animals eventually developed clinical signs of disease including hunched posture, generalized tremors, ataxia, and head bobbing.

Provide scientific justification why pain and/or distress could not be relieved:

While the clinical signs associated with this disease would not be considered painful, the hunched posture, generalized tremors, ataxia, and head bobbing may be distressful to the animal. Initial clinical signs of this disease can be very subtle and not easily detectable and can be confused with normal activity of the animal. Detailed clinical observations were performed daily once the onset of this disease was suspected. To prevent premature euthanasia of the animal and a loss of study integrity, these detailed clinical observations were performed for a minimum of five days in order to distinguish the natural progression of the disease from normal activity of the animal. Many anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers have effects on the central nervous system and may have exaggerated the clinical signs of this disease resulting in the premature euthanasia of the animal and a loss of study integrity. Steroidal or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs would not have alleviated the symptoms as there are no inflammatory lesions associated with this disease. If at any time an animal was deemed unable to reach food or water, it was immediately euthanized regardless of whether or not clinical signs of disease had been observed.

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Column E Explanation
Facility Registration Number: 43-R-0009

Number of animals in Column E: 23

Species: ferret

Explain the procedure producing pain and/or distress:

Animals were exposed to an infectious agent after receiving two doses of an investigational vaccine. The disease process was allowed to progress in order to determine the efficacy of this treatment. Animals experienced decreased appetite, abnormal stool, vomiting, decreased activity, elevated body temperature, weight loss, bleeding from the nostrils suggesting respiratory distress, and/or ataxia.

Provide scientific justification why pain and/or distress could not be relieved:

The purpose of the study was to determine the efficacy of a vaccine candidate. Providing the animals with pain relief may have altered the course of the disease or altered the effectiveness of the vaccine under investigation. Euthanizing the animals as they began to show clinical signs of the disease would have diminished the ability to assess the efficacy of the therapeutic as some animals may experience clinical disease yet recover from infection. Animals were euthanized if they lost more than 25% of their body weight, had bleeding from the nostrils, or neurological deficits were observed.