



Standard Operating Procedure for *The Elevated Plus Maze for Mice*

1.0 PURPOSE

This procedure describes how test mice using the elevated plus maze. This is a commonly used paradigm to test primarily for anxiety-like behavior.

2.0 SCOPE (Should include which Cores this SOP applies to)

This procedure applies to all personnel who will test mice in the elevated plus maze within the Stem Cells Engraftment and *in vivo* Analysis Core.

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 Apparatus

The testing arena is shaped like a “+.” It was purchased from San Diego Instruments. Two arms (opposite each other) are open. There is a thin lip along the edge of these arms. Two other arms have tall walls that enclose the arms.

3.2 General Procedures

All testing occurs during the dark-phase (the active phase) of the light cycle. Testing is conducted under dim white-light illumination (about 150 lux). The subjects are moved from their housing room to the testing room and allowed to acclimate for at least 10min before testing. After testing is completed, the mice are immediately returned to the housing room. The test is recorded using digital video cameras.

3.3 Testing Procedure

1. Clean the testing arena with soap and water. Allow the arena to dry before use.
2. Begin recording. Hold the test card (with the date, test name, and testing conditions) in view. Hold the subject's cage card in view.
3. Place the subject into the center of the arena.
4. After five minutes, return the subject to its homecage.