

## **SPLENECTOMY**

ORDER CODE: SPLEENX

SPECIES: Rat, Mouse

DIET SUPPLEMENT: None required

This procedure results in the removal of the spleen. Animals that have had their spleen removed are sometimes used to maintain blood borne parasite infections. Splenectomized animals are also used in immunologic studies and investigations of hematopoietic diseases.

### **Surgical Procedure**

The animal is prepared for surgery using pre-operative and anesthetic procedures as described in our *Surgical Capabilities Reference Paper*, Vol. 13, No.1, 2005. A cranial-caudal skin incision is made lateral to the spine, with its cranial terminus just behind the left rib cage. A small incision is made on the exposed abdominal wall to provide access to the spleen. The spleen is pulled out through the incision. Any pancreatic tissue is freed from the spleen by blunt dissection and is returned to the abdominal cavity. A piece of 4-0 silk suture is used to ligate the splenic blood vessels. The spleen is then removed by transecting the blood vessels distal to the ligature. The skin incision is closed using wound clips.

### **IACUC**

Charles River's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) governs the entire surgical process, including any post-operative holding in CRL facilities prior to shipment. The receiving institution's Animal Care and Use Committee, investigators, and animal care staff are responsible for the well-being of the animal subsequent to its arrival at their institution. Justification for use of surgically-modified animals, review of experimental protocols, authorization to order animals that are surgically modified from Charles River, and all aspects concerning the use of surgically-modified animals after they arrive at the institution are the responsibility of the receiving institution's IACUC.

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