MULTIPLE SURVIVAL SURGERIES

Basis:

NACLR Guidelines, p. 35 (Repeated use of animals in experiments): Individual animals should not be used in more than one experiment, either in the same or different projects, without the express approval of the IACUC. However, it is noted that appropriate re-use of animals may reduce the total number of animals used in a Project, result in better design of experiments, and reduces stress or avoid pain to other animals.

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, p. 12: Multiple survival surgical procedures on a single animal are discouraged but may be permitted if scientifically justified by the user and approved by the IACUC. For example, multiple survival surgical procedures can be justified if they are related components of a research project, if they will conserve scarce animal resources, or if they are needed for clinical reasons. If multiple survival surgery is approved, the IACUC should pay particular attention to animal well-being through continuing evaluation of outcomes. Cost savings is not an adequate reason for performing multiple survival surgical procedures.

Guidelines:

Multiple survival surgeries on a single animal may be permitted only if scientifically justified by the investigator and approved by the IACUC. The number of survival surgeries performed must be limited to the minimum number necessary to achieve the research objectives and must be determined with due consideration for minimizing the pain and distress experienced by any one animal.

Whenever possible, all operative procedures should be done at one time to minimize post-operative discomfort and distress to the animal. Cost or convenience is not considered to be adequate justification for the conduct of multiple survival surgeries.

Emergency multiple surgeries may be done to correct complications due to previous surgical procedures or as part of the process of providing veterinary care; however, these must be done in consultation with an CM veterinarian. Euthanasia should be considered as a humane alternative to surgical repair in these cases if the animal is in poor health or suffering pain or distress that cannot be alleviated.