

Title: Multiple Surgical Procedures	Policy No.
	IACUC-010
	Effective Date: 7/18/11
	Updated: 11/10/2025

1. Reference(s):

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC, 2011, page 30.

2. Policy: Surgical survival procedures in the laboratory setting may be categorized as major or minor. Whether a procedure is major or minor should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the attending veterinarian and IACUC. Regardless of classification, multiple surgical procedures on a single animal should be evaluated to determine their impact on the animal's well-being.

Multiple major surgical procedures on a single animal are acceptable only if they are:

- (1) included in and essential components of a single research project or protocol
- (2) scientifically justified by the investigator, or
- (3) necessary for clinical reasons.

Conservation of scarce animal resources may justify the conduct of multiple major surgeries on a single animal, but the application of such a practice on a single animal used in separate protocols is discouraged and should be reviewed critically by the IACUC. When applicable, the IO must submit a request to the USDA/APHIS and receive approval in order to allow a regulated animal to undergo multiple major survival surgical procedures in separate unrelated research protocols. Justifications for allowing animals not regulated by the USDA to undergo multiple survival procedures that meet the above criteria should conform to those required for regulated species. If multiple survival surgery is approved, the IACUC should pay particular attention to animal well-being through continuing evaluation of outcomes. Cost savings alone is not an adequate reason for performing multiple major survival surgical procedures. Some procedures characterized as minor may induce substantial post-procedural pain or impairment and should similarly be scientifically justified if performed more than once in a single animal.