

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

Policy: **Limitations on Tumor Size**

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IACUC-118

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I. Purpose

The use of humane endpoints contributes to refinement by providing an alternative to experimental endpoints that result in unrelieved or severe animal pain and distress, including death.

II. Policy

Limitations on Tumor Size

Investigators proposing research projects involving tumor genesis must specify the criteria that establish when the endpoint has been reached, including the number of animals and when the study is to be terminated. The preferred type of study is one that is terminated when animals begin to exhibit clinical signs of disease including:

- the presence of ulceration; necrosis; infection;
- or when the animals are found to be moribund, cachectic, or unable to obtain food or water.

Compelling scientific reasons must be cited to justify allowing tumor growth to proceed beyond any one of the criterion below:

- 10% of body weight; or
- A mean tumor diameter exceeding 20 mm in an adult mouse; or
- A mean tumor diameter exceeding 40 mm in an adult rat

In research protocols involving tumors, a plan for monitoring study animals and providing for their care, if appropriate, must be provided. At a minimum, the monitoring plan must include direct observation every 2 to 3 days, more if it is a fast growing tumor, by trained and experienced investigative personnel who recognize clinical disease in the species being studied before clinical signs occur, daily observations after clinical signs occur, and the care and treatment to be given. A record system must also be described for animal weights, tumor size, clinical observations, and treatment or animal disposition. These records must be available for veterinary or IACUC review.

For more information, please contact the BRC staff at 310-222-3791.