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## Review

### Rodent analgesia: Assessment and therapeutics

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### Highlights

- Pain assessment methods for laboratory rodents are reviewed
- The current state of “cage side” assessments are summarized
- Analgesics and suggested dose rates are provided, based on current efficacy data.

### Abstract

Current use of analgesics to control procedure-related pain in laboratory rodents is unacceptably low. Almost all currently available analgesics were developed in small rodents, prior to use in man, so that safety and efficacy data in laboratory assays are available. Greater use of analgesics would be encouraged by critical evaluation of the potential interactions of these compounds with the outcomes of specific research studies. As in other species, effective post-procedural analgesia requires reliable ‘cage-side’ methods of assessing pain. Recent advances in pain assessment should lead to both more extensive and more effective use of analgesics in these species.

**Keywords:** Rat; Mouse; Guinea Pig; Pain; Analgesia

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