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26th March 2018

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We have submitted the following manuscript entitled ‘Alternative surgical approach for middle cerebral artery occlusion allowing reperfusion via common carotid artery repair in mice’. This study describes an alternative surgical approach for inducing the commonly used experimental stroke model in mice which results in improved welfare and reduced variability within groups. The importance of this work is in demonstrating that reduced variability in animal stroke studies has the potential to increase animal wellbeing, reduce the number of animals used and potentially increase the efficacy of animal studies in detecting treatment effects.

The original modification and impact upon data has been published previously (see Trotman-Lucas et al. Dis Model Mech 2017; 10: 931-938, doi:10.1242/dmm.029108). The technique is technically challenging and therefore following discussion with Dr Nandita Singh, senior science editor for JoVE, we propose that this refined method would benefit from being published ina JoVE’s unique multimedia format. We hope you will agree that this is a timely manuscript and will appeal to a wide readership. I have included below the details of 6 suggested peer reviewers.

I can confirm that all authors have read and approved the submitted manuscript, the manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere nor published elsewhere in whole or in part, except as an abstract. In terms of author contributions - CG conceived the original study design. ML-T, JJ and MK performed the experiments and analysed the data. ML-T, MK and CG drafted and critically evaluated the manuscript. ML-T and CG will contribute to the video production.

Kind regards,



Dr Claire Gibson (on behalf of all authors)

Suggested peer reviewers

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