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July 31, 2018

Editorial Board,

JoVE

Dear Aaron Berard,

Please find attached the protocol "*A Modified Middle Cerebral Artery Occlusion Technique for Inducing Stress-free PSD in Rodents*," that we wish to have published with JoVE. This study narrates the reproduction of a modified middle cerebral artery occlusion technique that eradicates unwanted side injuries upon inducing the intended depressive mood (PSD).

As explained in the manuscript, this method could as well help in deciphering the mechanism of action of the factors involved in triggering depression and in assessing future PSD therapies. Results obtained show that, despite mitigating side injuries, this modified technique, like the original technique, was able to properly induce PSD, as seen in comparison with Sham-operated rats. It is therefore, our wish that this finding be made available to the public.

All authors listed contributed immensely to the day to day experimental procedure, discussion and evaluation, and write up of the manual. We have continually been in communication with Aaron Berard as we sought to come up with a protocol that is comprehensible to all.

We hope that you will find our protocol worthy of publication with JoVE.

Yours Faithfully,

Matthew Boyko