

 <b>Yale University</b> Animal Resources Center Veterinary Clinical Services	<b>Code:</b>
	<b>Issued:</b>
	<b>Effective:</b>
<b>Rats: Oral Administration of Meloxicam          (Metacam ®) for Analgesia</b>	<b>Status: APPROVED</b>
	<b>Revised:</b>

**Purpose:** To administer Meloxicam suspension in the water for analgesia.

Background: Metacam may be administered to supplement opioid treatment for major survival surgery. It may also be used following minor procedures (laceration repair, mass removal, tail amputation), trauma (fight wounds, injured extremity) or inflammation. Treatment should be administered for a minimum of 48 hours, final duration determined case by case. A faculty veterinarian must be consulted before Metacam use for unexpected or severe conditions.

<b>Materials:</b> Meloxicam injection 5.0mg/ml	VCS Treatment sheet
5cc syringe	“Special water” sticker for water bottle
20g needle	Medicated Water card
Cleaned and filled water bottle	“No lixit” card

**Procedure:**

<b>Dose calculation:</b>	Desired dose of Meloxicam:	0.001mg/ g body wt/ day
	Average adult body weight	300g
	Average total dose/ rat/ day:	0.001mg/g x 300g = 0.3mg
	Average H <sub>2</sub> O consumption/day:	30ml
	Meloxicam concentration required:	0.3 ÷ 30 = 0.01mg/ml
	Meloxicam / 100ml H <sub>2</sub> O:	1.0 mg
	Undiluted Meloxicam contains:	5.0 mg/ml
	Thus: <b><u>Undiluted Meloxicam (ml)</u></b>	<b><u>Water volume (ml)</u></b>
	0.2 ml	100ml
	1.0 ml	500ml

1. Determine/confirm the volume of water in the bottle.
2. Add 0.2ml of undiluted Meloxicam suspension per 100ml of water to be medicated.
3. Shake the bottle well and place it on the cage.
4. If the cage has an autowatering lixit, remove it and label the cage with a “NO LIXIT” card.
5. Apply a “Special Water” sticker to the bottle and the cage. Fill out a Medicated water card and place it on the cage.
6. Medicated water bottle should be changed at a minimum of once a week. The water bottle does not need to be shaken daily.
7. Leave the VCS Treatment sheet in the room informing YARC husbandry staff to call VCS if a medicated water bottle needs to be refilled. A treatment sheet must also be left for the YARC Unit Supervisor.
8. Remove the treatment sheet/cards and replace the lixit when treatment is finished.

9. Place the treatment sheet in the animal's record.

***Deviations from this SOP must be pre-approved by Veterinary Clinical Services***

<b>Prepared by:</b>	
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>