Purpose

Measure bone mineral content and density as well as body composition in mice using the DEXA (Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry) analyser.

Experimental Design

- **Minimum number of animals**: 7M + 7F
- **Age at test**: Week 14

Procedure

3.1 Calculate and record the volume of anaesthetic solution required for intraperitoneal (IP) injection.

3.2 Anesthetize the mice.

3.3 Monitor the animal carefully until unconsciousness by ensuring that the mouse is adequately sedated.

3.4 Weigh the mouse and record the value.

3.5 Measure the length of the mouse as follows and record the value (accuracy ±0.1 cm)

   3.5.1 Place the unconscious mouse on a disinfected ruler so that its nose is at zero (figure 1).
3.5.2 To measure the entire length of the head press gently against the ruler (figure 2) and gently pull the tail to ensure that the spine returns to its full length (figure 3).
3.5.3 Measure the length starting from the nose (0cm) to the beginning of the tail (figure 4). Record the measurement – the accuracy is within 0.1cm. For example in figure 4 the length of the mouse is 9.5cm.
3.5.4 Disinfect the ruler and contact area after the measurement has been taken.

3.6 Place the unconscious mouse into the DEXA analyser.

3.7 Perform a scout-scan.

3.8 Optimise the area of interest and perform a measure-scan.

3.9 Note that the exposure dose per mouse is 300Sv.

3.10 For the analysis of the data, regions of interest must be defined. The standard analysis comprises of a whole body analysis excluding the head area.

3.11 Remove the mouse once the image is captured. Place the mouse on a heated mat, set at 37ºC, in a cage and monitor closely until consciousness is regained.

Notes

Dual-energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA or DXA) is a method of quantifying bone mineral content and density. DXA uses an X-ray generator of high stability to produce photons over a broad spectrum of energy levels. Its photon output is filtered to produce the two distinct peaks necessary to distinguish bone from soft tissue.

The technique used for separating photon output into two distinct energy levels is known as ‘K-edge’ filtration. By placing a filter element in the beam path, energy levels reacting with the filter material are sharply attenuated. The filter effect gradually lessens at higher energy
levels, and so a second peak is introduced. The tin filter material used in this system produces energy peaks at 28keV and 48keV. Two solid-state detectors and proprietary energy discrimination are used to determine high and low energy counts.

The count data is transformed by software into bone and non-bone components, thus generating the bone density values. Information is generated about body weight, body length, fat and bone mass, bone mass density, and lean mass of each mouse.

Data QC

Calibration of the system is done in daily intervals using the phantoms delivered by the manufacturer. The results from the calibration runs are recorded by the system.

Parameters and Metadata

**Body weight** IMPC_DXA_001_001 | v1.1

*simpleParameter*


Unit Measured: g

Description: body_weight

**Fat mass** IMPC_DXA_002_001 | v1.1

*simpleParameter*


Unit Measured: g

Description: fat_mass
Lean mass  IMPC_DX_003_001 | v1.1

**simpleParameter**

- **Req. Analysis:** false  
- **Req. Upload:** true  
- **Is Annotated:** true

**Unit Measured:** g

**Description:** lean_mass

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Bone Mineral Density (excluding skull)  IMPC_DX_004_001 | v1.2

**simpleParameter**

- **Req. Analysis:** false  
- **Req. Upload:** false  
- **Is Annotated:** true

**Unit Measured:** g/cm²

**Description:** bone_mineral_density_excluding_skull_

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Bone Mineral Content (excluding skull)  IMPC_DX_005_001 | v1.2

**simpleParameter**

- **Req. Analysis:** false  
- **Req. Upload:** false  
- **Is Annotated:** true

**Unit Measured:** g

**Description:** bone_mineral_content_excluding_skull_
**Body length** IMPC_DXA_006_001 | v1.2

*simpleParameter*

Req. Analysis: false  
Req. Upload: false  
Is Annotated: true

Unit Measured: cm

Description: body_length

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**BMC/Body weight** IMPC_DXA_007_001 | v1.3

*simpleParameter*

Req. Analysis: false  
Req. Upload: false  
Is Annotated: true

Unit Measured: ratio

Description: bmc_body_weight

Derivation: \( \text{div}('IMPC\_DXA\_005\_001', 'IMPC\_DXA\_001\_001') \)

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**Lean/Body weight** IMPC_DXA_008_001 | v1.3

*simpleParameter*

Req. Analysis: false  
Req. Upload: false  
Is Annotated: true

Unit Measured: ratio

Description: lean_body_weight

Derivation: \( \text{div}('IMPC\_DXA\_003\_001', 'IMPC\_DXA\_001\_001') \)
**Fat/Body weight** IMPC_DXA_009_001 | v1.3

simpleParameter

- **Req. Analysis**: false
- **Req. Upload**: false
- **Is Annotated**: true

**Unit Measured**: ratio

**Description**: fat_body_weight

**Derivation**: div('IMPC_DXA_002_001', 'IMPC_DXA_001_001')

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**Bone Area** IMPC_DXA_010_001 | v1.3

simpleParameter

- **Req. Analysis**: false
- **Req. Upload**: false
- **Is Annotated**: true

**Unit Measured**: cm^2

**Description**: bone_area_bmc_bmd_

**Derivation**: div('IMPC_DXA_005_001', 'IMPC_DXA_004_001')

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**Equipment ID** IMPC_DXA_011_001 | v1.0

procedureMetadata

- **Req. Analysis**: false
- **Req. Upload**: true
- **Is Annotated**: false
**Equipment manufacturer** IMPC_DXA_012_001 | v1.1

Description: equipment_name

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**Equipment model** IMPC_DXA_013_001 | v1.0

Description: equipment_model

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**Mouse Status** IMPC_DXA_014_001 | v1.0

Description: equipment_name
Description: mouse_status

Options: Anesthetized, Dead, Awake,
Unit Measured: g/cm^2