Xenopus Oocyte Harvest Surgery Guidelines

Multiple major survival surgical procedures on a single animal is discouraged by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals but may be permitted if scientifically justified by the user and approved by the IACUC. For example, multiple major survival surgical procedures can be justified if they are related components of a research project, if they will conserve scarce animal resources, or if they are needed for clinical reasons. Cost savings alone is not an adequate reason for performing multiple major survival surgical procedures.

- Personnel performing surgeries should be adequately trained in the technique or have oversight by an experienced individual when learning the technique.
- The instruments and materials used during surgery must be sterile.
- Animals should be monitored during recovery from anesthesia.
- Individual animals should not have surgery more frequently than once every 30 days.
- Individual animals should have a maximum of four recovery surgeries. A final, non-recovery surgery may be performed.
- Incision sites and the animal’s general health should be monitored daily for at least five days following surgery.
- Individual animals should be identified and appropriate records maintained to track the number of surgeries each animal has had.