

# Risk Assessment for School Science Activities

<b>Name and nature of activity</b>	Performing a rat dissection		
<b>Location and date of activity</b>			
<b>Name of teacher/technician</b>	Science ASSIST example risk assessment		
<b>Activity type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technician procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher demonstration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student activity – Student year group		
<b>Physics and general equipment</b>	<b>Type of hazard</b>	<b>Controls and other measures</b>	
PPE (lab coat/apron, gloves and safety glasses) Dissecting board Dissecting instruments: Forceps, Probe, Scissors, Pins/needles (entomological or drawing pins) Scalpel (optional) Paper towel Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiation  ionising  laser  <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical <input type="checkbox"/> Thermal <input type="checkbox"/> Projectiles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharps <input type="checkbox"/> Other –	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant signage <input type="checkbox"/> Perspex safety shield <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharps container <input type="checkbox"/> Glassware free from cracks or chips <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses <input type="checkbox"/> Thermally insulated gloves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – Only staff attach/remove scalpel blades, using safe procedures or use disposable scalpels. See extra comments below	
<b>Chemicals used and produced</b>	<b>Type of hazard</b>	<b>Controls and other measures</b>	
Disinfectant – hospital grade, diluted according to manufacturer's instructions (Corrosive)  70% v/v ethanol (flammable)	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flammable   <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidising   <input type="checkbox"/> Gases under pressure   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrosive         </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acute toxicity   <input type="checkbox"/> Health hazards   <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic health hazards   <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental   <input type="checkbox"/> Other –         </div> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limit quantity/concentration <input type="checkbox"/> Perspex safety shield <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ventilation: natural/exhaust <input type="checkbox"/> Fume cupboard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laboratory coat/apron <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloves: latex/nitrile/neoprene/PVC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety shower <input type="checkbox"/> Other –	
<b>Biological/geological materials</b>	<b>Type of hazard</b>	<b>Controls and other measures</b>	
Freshly euthanised, frozen or preserved laboratory rat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biohazard <input type="checkbox"/> Dust/aerosols <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharps  <input type="checkbox"/> Manual handling <input type="checkbox"/> Other –	<input type="checkbox"/> Steriliser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharps container <input type="checkbox"/> Dust mask <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – See comments below	
<b>Waste produced</b>	<b>Waste disposal procedure</b>		
Dissected animal tissue (rat) ( bin) Used disinfectants (sink) Used or damaged scalpel blades (sharps container)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-treatment of waste – All parts of the rat must be wrapped in newspaper and placed in a dedicated garbage bag. When waste is collected double bag for disposal in industrial bin. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sink with water – Used disinfectants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular waste – Dissected animal tissue (rat) <input type="checkbox"/> Licenced hazardous waste company – <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – Used/damaged scalpel blades must be placed in an approved sharps container after use.		
<b>Standard Operating Procedures</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read the relevant Standard Operating Procedure. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am experienced/trained in using all the equipment listed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All chemicals used and produced are approved for use. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read the current SDSs for all hazardous chemicals used and produced. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am aware of safety guidelines for using all chemicals, materials and equipment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will follow local guidelines for waste disposal (water authority, local council, EPA). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am aware of first aid procedures if required.			
Other comments: Note that fainting may occur during this type of activity, so be familiar with first aid information. Rats should be sourced humanely euthanised and disease (or infection) free from ethical and licenced suppliers. Store below 5°C prior to dissection. Use dissection scissors, instead of scalpels for students whenever possible.			
<b>Conclusion:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Risks not significant now and not likely to increase. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risks significant but effectively controlled at the moment. <input type="checkbox"/> Risks significant and not adequately controlled at the moment. <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain about risks; more detailed assessment required.			
Assessment carried out by: Science ASSIST	Signature:		Date: <b>Sept 2016</b>
Assessment approved by:	Signature:		Date:
Next assessment due:			
This Risk Assessment assumes that the activity will be conducted in a science teaching area with the following facilities: electricity, running water, emergency shut-offs for electricity, gas if applicable, and water, regular testing and tagging of portable appliances; emergency contingencies such as evacuation/emergency plans, appropriate fire extinguishers, spill kits, hand washing facilities, eyewash/safety shower and first aid supplies. It is also assumed that all the necessary licencing requirements and approvals are obtained prior to the activity.			