

Minimum Analgesic Period by Pain Level

Pain Level	Minimum Analgesia Period	Drug Selections and Combinations (Multimodal analgesia is the concurrent use of at least two different types of pain medications to maximize pain e.g. Opioid and NSAID.)	Indications (listed examples are for initial categorization of pain level and analgesic period. Final categorizations are determined during veterinary consult and approved by the IACUC)	Post-procedure Observation & Pain Assessment Frequency (X days is the minimum requirement. If animal is still experiencing adverse effects from the procedure, monitoring must be continued as long as necessary)
Level 0 Minimal pain	Pre-emptive only (up to 12 hours)	NSAID OR Opioid OR Local anesthetic	Skin incision without deeper tissue manipulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin biopsy • Tracheal injection • Orbital sinus Injection or blood collection 	Once daily for at least 1 day.
Level 1 Mild pain	24 hours	NSAID OR Opioid	Skin incision with minimal tissue dissection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catheter implantation without access port • Subcutaneous implantation (minipump/pellet/tumor piece) • Scrotal castration, vasectomy • Craniostomy-Needle-width with or without needle-width dural penetration 	At least once daily for at least 2 days then final observation at suture/wound clip removal.
Level 2 Moderate pain	48 hours	NSAID OR Opioid (Multimodal analgesia recommended)	Skin incision with moderate tissue dissection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catheter implantation with vascular access port • Ovariectomy/Adrenalectomy-flank incision • Minor laparotomy (e.g. embryo transfer, IP minipump) • Intracranial implantation of guide cannula 	At least once daily for at least 3 days then final observation at suture/wound clip removal.
Level 3 Severe pain	72 hours	NSAID AND Opioid (Multimodal analgesia required)	Skin incision with extensive tissue dissection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major laparotomy (e.g. splenectomy, Cesarean section, hepatectomy, Intrasplenic or intrahepatic injection) • Myocardial infarction (MI), Ischemia reperfusion (IR), Transverse aortic coarctation (TAC) • Direct manipulation of a joint, nerve, or bone (including teeth) 	At least once daily for at least 5 days then final observation at suture/wound clip removal.