



GE HealthCare



Animal Research

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GE HealthCare invents tools that transform care and empower healthcare professionals to go above and beyond for patients. A key technology in this effort is the visualization of biological processes at all levels within the human body, from the sub-cellular molecules and biochemicals to cells, tissues, and whole organ systems. Contrast and radiopharmaceutical imaging agents are, in general, injected into the bloodstream to enhance images taken of an anatomical structure or function of internal organs and other tissues of the body. To advance these technologies, GE HealthCare performs healthcare-related research that requires the use of a limited number of animals to determine the safety and efficacy of new products and in compliance with the regulatory requirements of health authorities around the

world. GE HealthCare develops pharmaceutical diagnostic products used to understand and enable the treatment of major diseases in conjunction with X-ray, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound, and functional imaging systems including PET and SPECT.

GE HealthCare conducts research involving laboratory animals, primarily rodents, in the discovery and development of diagnostic and biomedical products used in the detection, prevention, or treatment of human disease. GE HealthCare is committed to using the fewest number of animals that will provide scientifically sound data to help determine the safety and efficacy of its products. GE HealthCare is also

committed to providing exemplary care of animals used in research, aligned with industry best practices and international standards for the care and welfare of laboratory animals. GE HealthCare adheres to the “Three Rs” principle, through which the use of animals for research is reduced, refined, and replaced. GE HealthCare recognizes that the carefully considered use of animals in medical research remains necessary to advance scientific understanding of biological systems and to develop new medical technologies when alternative scientific methods are not available. However, continuing developments in the fields of genetics, molecular biology, advanced computing, and others are providing unprecedented opportunities for biomedical advancements while simultaneously reducing the future need for the use of animals in research.

GE HealthCare’s limited use of animals involves the following:

- Research supporting the development of novel diagnostics, prophylactics, and therapies.
- Safety testing of products.

Key points regarding the use of animals in our medical research:

- GE HealthCare uses animals in research and product development only when scientifically necessary and/or required by regulatory authorities. The safety and efficacy of our products for use in humans is of paramount importance.
- Our researchers subscribe to the Three Rs, which advocate for study designs in medical research that will reduce, refine, and replace the use of animals to the extent possible while producing robust scientific output.

- Alternatives to animal studies, including computational modelling, are used to replace, refine and support studies that require the use of animals.
- Health authorities across the world set stringent regulatory guidelines for the evaluation of new pharmaceutical compounds. These require that all prescription medicines intended for use in humans must be shown to be safe, effective, and of the highest quality before being made available to treat patients. Therefore, at present, the use of animal studies is required to determine the safety of products and meet the regulatory requirements of many health authorities globally.
- All animal studies comply with local and national regulations, including appropriate licensing requirements.
- All animal studies are scrutinized and approved, prior to initiation, by a designated oversight committee whose sole purpose is to verify that studies are necessary, scientifically justified, ethical, and designed to minimize the number of animals used and to avoid or minimize pain, discomfort, and levels of stress for the animals. After approval, on-going studies are further monitored by the oversight board to assure compliance with all relevant GE HealthCare policies and procedures.
- GE HealthCare participates in a voluntary accreditation and assessment program provided by an internationally recognized, external non-profit organization.



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