



# Mouse Echocardiography

Version: 1

Replaced by version: N/A

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[Summary](#)

[Reagents and Materials](#)

[Protocol](#)

**Summary:** This protocol describes the procedure used by the AMDCC for transthoracic echocardiography in awake mice.

## Reagents and Materials:

Reagent/Material	Quantity Required	Vendor	Stock Number
Isoflurane (1%)			

## Protocol:

We perform transthoracic echocardiography in awake mice. If anesthesia is required we currently favor the use of inhaled isoflurane (1%), delivered via nose cone. The anesthesia flow can be titrated to minimize any reduction in heart rate. If inhaled anesthesia is not available, we have also had success with avertin (tribromoethanol)(0.2 ml/10 g body weight) or chloral hydrate (0.5 mg/g body weight). Heart rates are generally maintained at more than 400 per minute with these regimens. The chest hair is removed with a topical depilatory agent. Limb leads were attached for electrocardiogram gating, and the animals are imaged in the left lateral decubitus position with a 13-MHz linear probe (Vivid FiVe; GE Medical Systems, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA).

Two-dimensional images are recorded in parasternal long- and short-axis projections with guided M-mode recordings at the midventricular level in both views. Left ventricular (LV) cavity size and wall thickness are measured in at least three beats from each projection and averaged. LV wall thickness [interventricular septum (IVS) and posterior wall (PW) thickness] and internal dimensions at diastole and systole (LVIDd and LVIDs, respectively) are measured. LV fractional shortening  $[(LVIDd - LVIDs)/LVIDd]$ , relative wall thickness  $[(IVS \text{ thickness} + PW \text{ thickness})/LVIDd]$ , and LV mass  $[1.05 (IVS \text{ thickness} + LVIDd + PW \text{ thickness})^3 - LVIDd^3]$  are calculated from the M-mode measurements.