



Marbles burying test

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Edited by: Louise Lanoue

Ref: Angoa-Perez, M. et al J Vis Exp 2013 (82): 5078

Summary:

In the marble burying test, 20 marbles are arranged on the surface of clean bedding. The number of marbles buried in a 30 min session is scored by investigators blind to the treatment or status of the subjects. This test evaluates repetitive, compulsive-like behaviors in mice .

Reagents and Materials:

Reagent/Material	Vendor	Stock Number
Clean cages with filter top		
Cage bedding		
Glass marbles (20)		
Lab Coat/Gloves/PPE		
Paper towels		
Disinfectant -Coverage Plus	Steris	

Protocol:

1. SET-UP (acclimation of mice, software setup)

- Acclimate mice in quiet room for 30 min prior to testing.
- Evenly distribute bedding in cages to have ~5cm layer of bedding throughout the cage.
- Distribute the marbles on bedding, evenly in 4 rows, 5 marbles per row.

2. PROCEDURE

- Place the mouse in the corner of the cage and put on the filter top. Start the timer.
- After the set time has completed (30 min), remove the mouse from the cage taking care not to disturb the bedding.
- Record the number of buried marbles. A buried marble is identified as any marble that is buried in the bedding by two-thirds or more.
- Enter the data.
- Remove and wash the marbles.
- If additional testing of mice, use clean cage and new bedding.

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