

**NINDS AHCS
Rodent Post-operative Assessment Chart**

Observation	Score Standards	Details
Attitude and Activity	0	BAR (bright/active/responsive), exploring, rears when cage lid opened
	1	Hiding or burrowing
	2	QAR (quiet/alert/responsive), but no exploratory behavior
	3	Resists handling, aggressive behavior, bruxism (teeth grinding)
	*4	Unresponsive
Appearance	0	Normal, well groomed
	1	Slightly rough coat
	2	Poorly groomed and/or <i>slight</i> porphyrin staining on nose and/or face
	3	Poorly groomed and/or <i>marked</i> porphyrin staining on nose and face
Gait and Posture	0	Normal, moves freely
	1	Mild incoordination when stimulated
	2	Hunched posture
	*3	Obvious ataxia or head tilt, drags one or both limbs
Surgical Site	0	Incision clean, dry, well opposed
	1	Fresh hemorrhage or small amount of encrustation with dried serum
	2	Sutures/Clips too tight or severely encrusted with dried blood
	*3	Incision site- Moist, red, swelling, and/or incision pulling apart
	*4	Purulent discharge
Appetite and Hydration (Note presence/absence of feces on surg. record)	0	Good appetite, good hydration. Evidence of urine and feces, evidence of eating fruit and jello. Good skin turgor.
	1	Poor appetite, good hydration. No interest in fruit/treats. Skin does not "tent."
	2	Poor appetite, poor hydration. No interest in fruit/treats and appears dehydrated. Skin "tents" and slowly returns to normal body shape.
	*3	Severe dehydration. Skin "tents" and remains tented for a prolonged period of time.
Weight Score	0	Up to 5% weight loss under pre-op weight post-op
	1	5-9% weight loss under pre-op weight
	2	10-14% weight loss under pre-op weight
	*3	15-20% weight loss under pre-op weight
Best Score = 0		Worst Score = 20

If total score is 5 or more, place animal for recheck. * Contact veterinarian immediately.