

Table 2: Summary of Rodent Blood Sampling Techniques

Route	General Anesthesia Required	Speed and Efficiency		Sample Quality		Repeated Sampling	Relative Volumes Obtainable	Potential for Complications	Species	Comments
		Mouse	Rat	Mouse	Rat					
Mandibular	No	+++	N/A	+++	N/A	Yes	Medium to large	Low	Mouse	Rapid, easy and repeated samples possible
Saphenous	No	++	++	++	++	Yes	Small to medium	Low	Rat, Mouse	Not as rapid as other techniques, low potential for tissue damage
Tail Vein or Artery	No	++ Vein +++ Artery	+++ Vein +++ Artery	+ to ++ ¹	++ to +++	Yes	Small to medium (vein) Medium to large (artery)	Low	Rat, Mouse	Repeatable, simple, variable sample quality
Jugular	Recommended	N/A	+ /++	N/A	+++	Difficult	Large	Low	Rat	Limited application, poor for repeated sampling
Retro-orbital	Yes	+++	++	+++	++	Should alternate eyes	Medium to large	Moderate to high	Rat, Mouse	Rapid, potential for complications
Cardiac (terminal)	Yes	++	++	+++	+++	N/A	Large	Low	Rat, Mouse	Must be done under anesthesia; must be a terminal procedure

¹ Depending on method and amount of manipulation