

T400-Series Surgical Protocol

Sheep Uterine Artery: Chronic Blood Flow Measurement

APPLICATION BASICS

Site:	Uterine artery
Species:	Sheep (ewe)
Weight:	40 kg
Duration:	Chronic - 15 days
Vessel Diameter:	4 mm
PROBE	
Size:	4 mm (side exit)
Reflector:	L with sliding cover
Connector:	CRS10
Cable Length:	60 cm
Catalog #:	MC-4PSS-LS-WC60-CRS10-GC
FLOWMETER	
	TS420 Perivascular Module

Application

Uterine blood flow is used extensively in pregnancy research. Some investigators use blood flow in combination with arterial and venous sampling catheters to estimate the uptake of particular metabolites. Others use uterine blood flow in combination with pressure to monitor pharmaceutically induced changes in vascular resistance.

Surgical Approach

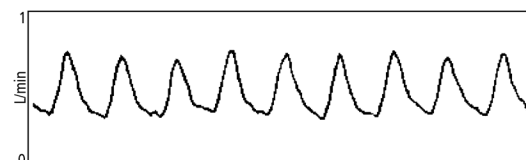
Sedate the ewe with 2 mg xylazine IM. Then give 600 mg ketamine IV slowly over a two minute period to induce anesthesia. Anesthesia may be maintained with an infusion pump delivering a 50 mg/ml concentration of ketamine at a rate of 0.2 ml/min.

Place anesthetized ewe in dorsal recumbancy and make a ventral paramedian incision from the umbilicus to a point 2 cm cranial to the udder. The skin incision is made 1 cm off midline to avoid the median subcutaneous vein. Retract the skin and associated vascular structures and continue the incision through midline of the abdominal wall. Locate the broad ligament and uterine artery lateral to the pregnant horn and follow the uterine artery down to the body of the uterus.

Dissect free a segment of the artery lateral to the body of the uterus and place the Probe around the artery. Close the slide and tighten the screw. Stable flow readings in the chronic implant occur much sooner when the Probe is firmly secured around the vessel. In this particular site, there is substantial

(Continued on next side.)

Flow Ranges Observed



Instantaneous flow ranges from 350 ml/min to 750 ml/min.

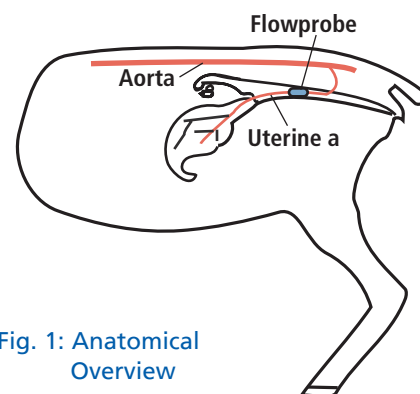


Fig. 1: Anatomical Overview

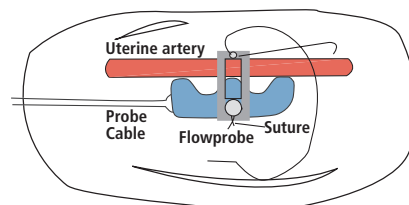


Fig. 2: Suturing the Probe to the vessel.

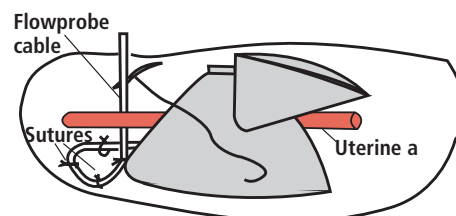


Fig. 3: Covering for the Probe.

Sheep Uterine Artery: Chronic Blood Flow Measurement Cont.

Surgical Approach cont.

loose connective tissue that can be used to secure and bury the Probe. Place a suture through the bracket hole and connective tissue as shown in Fig 2. Next, cover the Probe with loose tissue and suture as shown in Fig 3. Other flaps can be pulled over the Probe and sutured to the first flap. Also suture a loop of the cable to the connective tissue for strain relief.

Use a trocar to puncture the abdominal wall in the paralumbar fossa. Enlarge the incision by scalpel to allow passage of Probe cable. Close the body wall and skin routinely. Close the exit site incision and suture the cable to the skin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sue Nobrega, Ramona Slepetic and Dr. Alan Bell,
Dept. of Animal Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

REFERENCES

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Akagi K, Endo C, Saito J, Onodera M, Tanigwara S, Okamura K, Yajima A, Sato A. "Ultrasonic Transit-Time Measurement of Blood Flow in the Animal Chronic Preparation Model," Jpn. J. Med. Ultrasonics 1987; 14(2): 26-32.



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AMERICAS

Transonic Systems Inc.
34 Dutch Mill Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850
U.S.A.
Tel: +1 607-257-5300
Fax: +1 607-257-7256
support@transonic.com

EUROPE

Transonic Europe B.V.
Business Park Stein 205
6181 MB Elsloo
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 43-407-7200
Fax: +31 43-407-7201
europe@transonic.com

ASIA/PACIFIC

Transonic Asia Inc.
6F-3 No 5 Hangsiang Rd
Dayuan, Taoyuan County
33747 Taiwan, R.O.C.
Tel: +886 3399-5806
Fax: +886 3399-5805
support@transonicasia.com

JAPAN

Transonic Japan Inc.
KS Bldg 201, 735-4 Kita-Akitsu
Tokorozawa Saitama
359-0038 Japan
Tel: +81 04-2946-8541
Fax: +81 04-2946-8542
info@transonic.jp