

REMOVAL OF HAIR FROM THE OPERATION FIELD  
IN EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS

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In experimental research the operation field in laboratory animals is usually prepared mechanically, by clipping and shaving. Before this procedure, the animal is given morphine solution. The process of clipping and shaving takes a long time and it is difficult to remove the hair completely (a few tufts usually remain).

We suggest another method of removing hair using sodium sulfide solution (a chemical method). A warm solution of fused sodium sulfide (10%) is applied with a soaked gauze swab wrapped around a wooden stick. The whole process takes 2 min. As soon as the hairs begin to break off, the prepared area is carefully washed with cold water until all hair and reagent have been removed. The whole procedure may be undertaken without anesthesia or morphine. The skin under the hair must be healthy and free from mechanical injury. Histological tests have shown that the hair bulb and epidermis are left intact. Normal hair growth begins on the treated area at the same time as after shaving.

This method has been used to prepare areas of skin in 115 dogs. The animals were kept under observation for 40-90 days and no complications developed in the treated areas. The method has proved itself and has enabled us to abandon entirely the use of mechanical methods of preparation of the operation field.

## SUMMARY

To remove hair from the operation field in animals the skin area may be treated with a 10% aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$  solution. 2-3 minutes later the hair is easily washed off together with the solution; the operation field is completely devoid of hair. This method does not require any morphine administration and is much quicker and more convenient than cutting or shaving the hair.