

Intradermal (ID)

Injections

Guinea Pig and Rabbit

ID injections may be used to immunize guinea pigs. In contrast to SC injections where material is deposited into the space between the skin and body wall, ID injections deposit material within the layers of the skin. Therefore, the volume of material that can be administered is very small (maximum 0.1 mL per site; 0.05 mL recommended). The fur should be clipped so that the injection site can be clearly observed. A 1/2" needle, of no more than 25g and a 1 cc syringe are recommended. The area to be injected is swabbed with an alcohol soaked cotton pad. The needle is inserted bevel up into the skin at approximately a 15-20 degree angle. The needle is only advanced approximately 1 mm. The material is injected slowly creating a small bleb that typically takes several minutes to resolve. Immediate dissolution of the bleb indicates that the material has been injected subcutaneously rather than intradermally. ID injections should be made over the dorsal thoracic and lumbar region. Multiple sites (up to 10) can be used.



ID injections may be used to immunize rabbits also. The technique is as described for guinea pigs, although the neck and anterior thoracic region should be avoided for injection as rabbits are handled by grasping this region. Injections should be made on the dorsal caudal thoracic and lumbar regions.