

MEDIA RELEASE

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Brain lesions induced in baby monkeys - more cruel experiments at Monash University

Humane Research Australia is concerned that the Australian Government continues to fund Monash University researchers to use primates in highly invasive experiments.

In a 2018 publication(1), four neonatal marmoset monkeys (aged between 14 and 22 days) received a chemical lesion to a part of the brain. The lesions were induced with a neurotoxin, using MRI-guided [stereotaxic surgery](#).

They underwent several MRI scans to visualise any changes in the brain tissue, then allowed to recover until adulthood (18 months).

A further four monkeys, aged between 18 and 22 months, were used as controls.

The animals were trained to reach for objects (between 10 and 20 trials) as their movements, grasp and coordination were all recorded.

At the conclusion of the testing, they were deeply anaesthetised, [transcardially perfused](#) and their brains were sectioned for further analysis.

Helen Marston, Chief Executive Officer, Humane Research Australia: *“Aside from the clear ethical dilemma of using animals with high cognitive abilities and well-developed social structures as mere ‘tools for research’, the use of primates has been found to be poorly predictive of human outcomes and their use has proven to be ineffective at providing substantial contributions to biomedical research.”*

“This study, funded by Australian taxpayers, is yet another example of wasting precious resources – studying the wrong species – and a display of blatant disregard for sentient, social and highly-cognitive individuals.” Marston concluded.

See here for further details:

<http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/case-studies/brain-lesions-in-baby-marmosets-to-study-eye-hand-coordination>

Ends

¹ ***Transient visual pathway critical for normal development of primate grasping behaviour*** (2018). Mundinano, I., Fox, D., Kwan, WC., Vidaurre, D., Teo, L., Homman-Ludiye, J., Goodale, MA., Leopold, DA. And Bourne, JA.