

DSS-induced colitis.

DSS (ICN Biomedical Inc., USA, average molecular weight of 41kDA) is supplied in the drinking water as a 2.5% (w/v, for c57BL/6 mice) and 5% (w/v, for BALB/c mice) solution for up to 8 days. The appearance of diarrhea is defined as mucus-fecal material adherent to anal fur. The presence or absence of diarrhea is scored as either 1 or 0, respectively. The presence or absence of diarrhea is confirmed by means of examination of the colon after completion of the experiment. Mice are killed, and the colon is excised from the animal. Diarrhea is defined by the absence of fecal pellet formation in the colon and the presence of continuous fluid fecal material in the colon. The appearance of rectal bleeding is defined as diarrhea containing visible blood, mucus, or both or gross rectal bleeding and scored as described for diarrhea. A change in body weight is calculated by the percent change (gain/loss) from the initial weight. The disease activity index (DAI) is derived by scoring 3 major clinical signs (weight loss, diarrhea, and rectal bleeding).