Making of silastic tube filled with crystalline hormone:

Necessary equipments:

-Silastic Tube (Medical Grade Tubing)
-Tweezers
-Spatula
-Metal paper clip
-Qtip (cotton swab)
-Alcohol
-Crystalline hormone
-Blade
-Scissors

Methods:

Silastic tubes filled with crystalline hormone are placed beneath the skin of experimental animals. The wall of this tube is permeable to body fluid. The crystalline hormone dissolves into the fluid and comes out of the tube slowly. Since many of these hormones are toxic, experiments must be done in the hood. Wear an apron to save your clothes.

1. Using a sharp blade, cut 10mm long silastic tube.

2. Seal one end of each 10mm tube with Adhesive Houston Glue (100% silicon clear). To make control tubes, seal both ends of the tube with glue. Empty tubes were implanted in control animals. Please make sure that the each end of the 10mm silastic tube is properly sealed (there is no hole), otherwise the experiment would not work.

3. Let the glue dry overnight.

4. Fill up the one closed-end silastic tube with crystalline hormone through the open end of the tube. You can use a spatula and the end of an unfolded paper clip to make sure that the tube is properly filled with hormone (there is no empty space). You could also use a small pipette tip and the end of an unfolded paper clip to fill up the empty tubes.

5. While filling up the tubes, use a Qtip (dipped in alcohol) to wipe off the wall of the tube: this makes it easier to clean the outside surface of the tube and to visualize whether or not the tube is getting full.

6. Once the tubes are filled with hormone, seal the open end with glue. Make sure that the each end is sealed properly and hormone is not leaking from either end.

7. Closely observe the tubes under the dissecting microscope to make sure that the silastic tubes are properly filled with hormones and there is no empty space in the tube.

8. Once each end of the tube is properly sealed and dry, use a pair of scissors to trim the ends, so that the tubes could be implanted beneath the skin of the animals without causing unwanted irritation.