

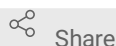


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FAST Dil Injection Protocol from Neural Tracing in Porcine SAN

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1 Works for me

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ABSTRACT

Protocol for injecting FAST Dil into the sinoatrial node of porcine test subjects for neural tracing purposes.

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MATERIALS TEXT

FAST Dil from Invitrogen, catalog D7756

CitiFluor AF1 Mounting Medium Solution (Electron Microscopy Sciences, Hatfield, PA, USA, Cat. #17970-100

Injection of FAST Dil

- 1 Sedated, anesthetized, and intubated pig (induction: ketamine 10 mg/kg IM/midazolam 1 mg/kg IM, maintenance: isoflurane 1-2% inhalation).
- 2 Performed right unilateral thoracotomy by dividing the pectoral muscle.
- 3 Made a small incision in the pericardium and exposed the right atrial (RA)-superior vena cava junction.
- 4 Used 27-gauge needle to inject 5 mg of an analog of 1,1'-dioctadecyl-3,3,3',3'-tetramethylindocarbocyanine perchlorate (FAST Dil, Invitrogen, D7756) in 250 µL of 100% methanol (MeOH) into the sinoatrial nodal (SAN) region.
- 5 Placed chest tube and closed incision.
- 6 Aspirated chest tube immediately prior to its removal.

Tissue Dissection and Preparation

- 7 Harvested tissue in a terminal procedure at least 3 weeks after injection procedure.
- 8 Immersed tissue in cold 4% PFA for 24 hours.
- 9 Washed tissue in PBS 4 times.
- 10 Transferred tissue to cold 0.01M PBS + 0.02% Na azide + 20% sucrose solution for shipment to East Tennessee State University.
- 11 Dissected tissue as needed to isolate specific regions.
- 12 Froze tissues on dry ice and stored at -80°C until ready to be sectioned.

Tissue Sectioning Using the Cryostat

- 13 Removed tissues from -80°C freezer and mounted onto specimen plate using Tissue-Tek® O.C.T. Compound (Sakura Finetek USA, Cat. No. 4583).
- 14 Cut tissues into 30µm sections at -20 to -25°C using a Leica CM3050S cryostat (Leica Microsystems Inc., Bannockburn, IL, USA).
- 15 Collected sections on charged slides in a sequence that yields at least 4 sets of tissue sections per region of the heart, with each set spanning the entire thickness of the specimen.
- 16 Stored sets of tissues in slide boxes wrapped in aluminum foil at -20°C until further processing.

Immunohistochemistry

- 17 Removed every second slide from a set to perform immunolabel for PGP9.5. (Described in separate protocol, found here: [dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.8rmhv46](https://doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.8rmhv46))
- 18 Applied cover glass to adjacent tissue slides using a drop of CitiFluor AF1 Mounting Medium Solution (Electron Microscopy Sciences, Hatfield, PA, USA, Cat. #17970-100).

Imaging

- 19 Imaged tissue sections using fluorescence illumination with an Olympus BX41 microscope equipped with an Olympus DP74 digital camera and cellSens software (Olympus America Inc., Center Valley, PA; RRID:SCR_016238).
- 20 Loaded slide onto stage and collected representative images of ganglia.

Quantification

- 21 Counted Dil-labeled neurons and total number of neurons (i.e., PGP9.5-positive).