

MAY 17, 2023

OPEN ACCESS

**DOI:**  
[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bp2l69b8dlqe/v1](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bp2l69b8dlqe/v1)

**Protocol Citation:** Sven Truxa, Felix J Hartmann 2023. MIBI: MIBI staining of fresh-frozen/OCT-embedded samples. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bp2l69b8dlqe/v1>

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**Protocol status:** Working  
 We use this protocol and it's working

**Created:** Oct 10, 2022

**Last Modified:** May 17, 2023

**PROTOCOL integer ID:**  
 71072

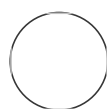
## MIBI: MIBI staining of fresh-frozen/OCT-embedded samples

Forked from [MIBI: MIBI staining of FFPE samples](#)

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### ABSTRACT

This protocol entails the recommended staining procedure for Multiplex Ion Beam Imaging Time of Flight instrument (MIBI\_TOF) as developed in the Sean C. Bendall and Michael R. Angelo labs, and has been adapted in the lab of Felix Hartmann specifically for the staining of fresh-frozen samples.

### CITATION

Marc Bosse, Sean Bendall, Mike Angelo. MIBI staining. protocols.io.

LINK

<https://protocols.io/view/mibi-staining-b9b3r2qn>

## GUIDELINES

Staining tissue sections is fairly straightforward but there are few things to be cognizant of, when preparing samples:

- Always try to limit mechanical damage to the sample surface. This can occur when moving the samples with forceps, particularly when the mounting substrates are small.
- Once the samples have been rehydrated, they cannot dry out until the end of the protocol.
- Be careful at all times to not touch the tissue, in order to not leave any residue.
- Once the samples have been stained, fixed, and dehydrated, they have an indefinite shelf life and can be imaged at any time but need to be stored properly such as in a vacuum chamber or in a sealed vacuum bag
- MIBI\_TOF observes the basic principles of Mass spectrometry. Any contaminant ions present in water or in the air can potentially compromise the integrity of the sample.
- Therefore to prevent potential contamination, it is important to **always use single use lab ware containers** to make the solutions. The protocol has been validated using the level of precision of graduated Nalgene bottles and 50 mL tubes.
- **The use of washed beakers or graduated cylinders is not considered as good a practice, due possible introduction of contaminants (exemples of sources: barium from lab ware soap or calcium from air dried lab ware)**

## MATERIALS

A	B	C
Products	Provider	Catalogue No.
Alcohol ethyl ETHANOL 200 PROOF	Gold Shield	412811
Alcohol ethyl ETHANOL 190 PROOF	Gold Shield	412602
Target Retrieval Solution, pH 9, (3:1)	Agilent (Dako)	S2375
UltraPure water	Invitrogen	10977-015
Gelatin (cold water fish skin)	Sigma-Aldrich	G7765-250
Glutaraldehyde 8% Aqueous Solution EM Grade	EMS	16020
Bovine Albumin (BSA), heat shock treated	Fisher	BP1600-100
Centrifugal filters (0.1µm)	Millipore	UFC30VV00
MIBI slides	IonPath	567001
Horse serum	Vector Labs	S-2000
Equipments	Provider	Cat No.
Thermo Scientific™ Lab Vision™ PT Module	Thermo Fisher Scientific	A80400012
Leica ST4020 Small Linear Stainer	Leica	14050946425
Bel-Art™ SP Scienceware™ Lab Companion Cabinet Style Vacuum Desiccators, Clear	Fisher Scientific	08-648-109
Sequenza staining rack + cover plates	Fisher Scientific	73-310-017/72-110-017

## SAFETY WARNINGS




All organic solvents should be manipulated under a chemical hood.

## BEFORE START INSTRUCTIONS

Verify the stocks of all reagents and place an order or prepare solutions, if some reagents are running low.

## Initial comments

-  If using frozen and vacuumed slides (e.g. from collaborators), let slides come to room temperature **before destroying the vacuum seal!** (prevent condensation!) ~5-10min
- In the morning: heat up **PT Module** and prepare fresh antigen retrieval solution (step 6) to place in the device for preheating

## Buffer preparation

20m

- Prepare 1x PBS by diluting 20xPBS 1:20 in Ultrapure type 1 water (needed for blocking buffer)
- Prepare Blocking buffer (also used as antibody diluent in this protocol!)  
**This buffer does NOT contain Tween!**

A	B
Reagents	Qty for 5mL
PBS 1x	4750µL
Horse Serum	250µL

Constituents of blocking buffer

Filter with .45µm syringe

-  Verify stock of 1x PBS wash buffer and prepare accordingly if running low  
**This buffer does NOT contain Tween!**

A	B
Reagents	Quantity of 250mL
PBS 10x (ml)	25mL

A	B
Bovine Albumin (BSA), heat shock treated (g)	0.25g
Ultrapure (type 1) water (mL)	225mL

Constituents of PBS washing buffer

- 6** To prepare **fresh antigen retrieval solution**, dilute 10x DAKO (3-in-1) pH9 antigen retrieval solution 1:10 in ultrapure (type 1) water (e.g. for 25mL: 2.5mL + 22.5mL)

note: if retrieving in gold slide delivery chamber (5 slots), 25mL are sufficient

A	B	C
Total volume (mL)	Volume target retrieval (mL)	Volume (mL) ddH2O
25	2.5	22.5
50	5	45
100	10	90

Dilution table for Dako Antigen retrieval solution

## Thaw and fix, wash

1h

- 7** If embedding medium is still on slide, carefully dip slide into 1x PBS before fixation

- 8** Fix Slides after thawing in 10% Neutral Buffered Formaline (NBF) for 1h at room temperature

1h



- 9** Transfer the slides in the **first** MIBI 1x PBS wash buffer and dip shortly to remove PFA

- 10** Transfer the slides to the **second** 1x PBS wash buffer and dip shortly to remove PFA

## Antigen retrieval after fixation

40m

- 11 After washing, transfer slide into antigen retrieval buffer jar within the preheated PT module

30m




press run on the digital screen as soon as the device is preheated to 75°C. The display will show **"WARMUP" and heat up to 80°C for retrieval**, stay at this temperature for 20minutes, directly put tissue back to RT.

This process takes ~30min.

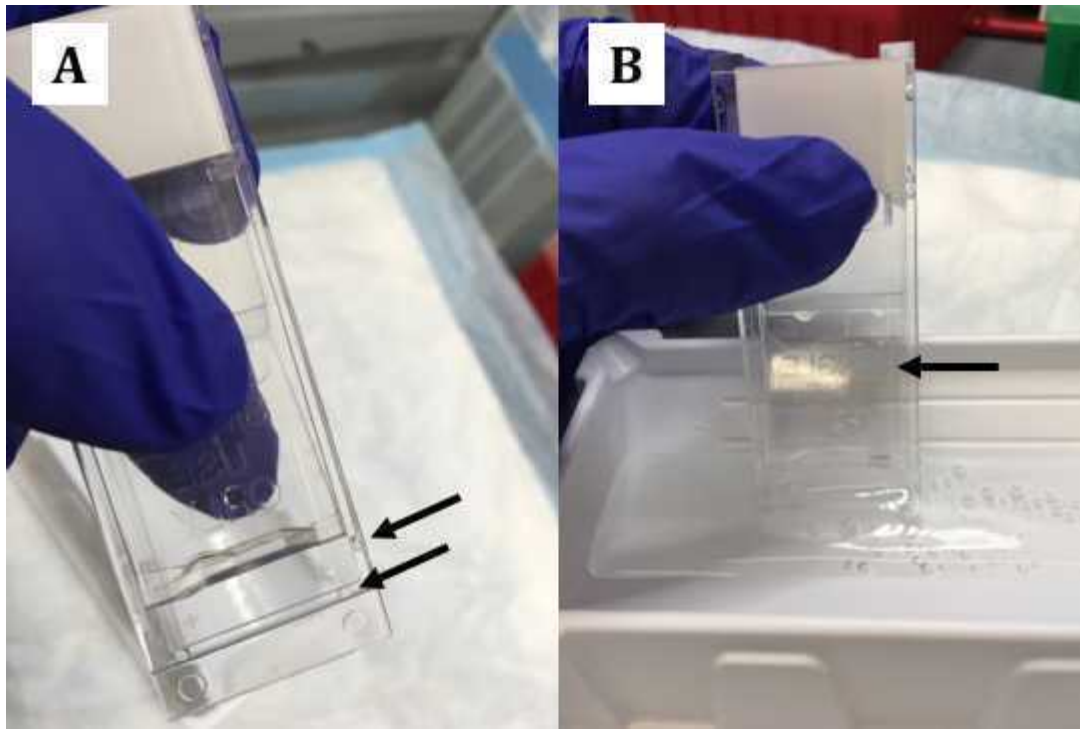
- 12 Take slides out of the PT module and let them cool to room temperature (~10 min) before proceeding.

10m

## Sequenza assembly

- 13 Fill a disposable Pipetting Reservoir with  20 mL of 1x PBS wash buffer

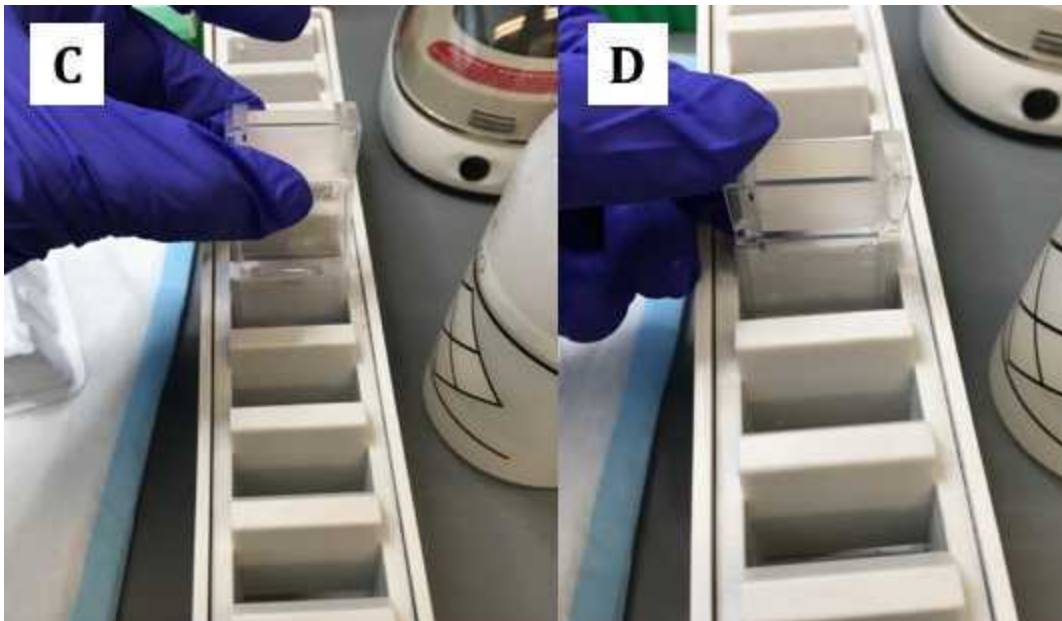
- 14 Place sample slide on a Sequenza cover plate aligning the bottom slide with the notches on the cover plate (see picture below panel A)




- 15** Fill by capillarity the space between the slide and cover plate by holding the parts tight and dipping the bottom part of the assembly in the wash buffer reservoir (see picture above panel B).

If capillary force is not sufficient to fill the staining reservoir, a careful pumping motion on the triangular protrusion can help.

- 16** Transfer the slide and coverplate assembly into the Sequenza rack. Slip in the assembly (see below picture panel C)





- 17 Secure the assembly and make sure that the assembly placed down in the rack (see above picture panel D)
- 18 Add  1 mL of wash buffer. The buffer should flow thru within 1 min 30 s. Repeat by adding 1 mL of wash buffer

5m

## Blocking

1h

- 19 Add 200µL of blocking buffer to the sequenza assembly, make sure the buffer is retained in the assembly (the waterline should stop at the upper end of the capillary space)
- 20 Incubate at  Room temperature for  01:00:00

1h

## Multiplex Antibody mix


Prepare antibody mix based on the putative multiplex antibody panel



21

Make sure that all the antibodies are ready to use **BEFORE** starting to build the panel

**It is highly recommended to prepare all the antibodies, ready to use, a day before the panel is built**

21.1 The total volume needed for staining each Sequenza slide assembly is  120 µL


Note

The manufacturer recommend to use 100 µL per Sequenza slide assembly. 120 µL is therefore a 20% excess.

21.2 Build an antibody mix table information to make the antibody panel as follow:

**Conjugation ID, Target name, Channel, Antibody concentration, Titer, Volume**

**Exemple:**


The total volume needed for staining each Sequenza slide assembly is  120 µL


A	B	C	D	E	F
ID	Target	Channel	Concentration µg/mL	Titer (µg/mL)	Volume (µL)
1565	CD45	169	50	0.25	0.75
1516	CD8	158	50	0.5	1.5
...	...	...	...	...	...
				Total	150
				Antibody mix	2.25
				Blocking buffer	147.75

For **Blocking Buffer** solution preparation refer to **step 4**

**21.3 Prepare the antibody mix** according to the calculation. Make sure to spin down antibody vials before pipetting to prevent pipetting of aggregates. Use filter tips when pipetting from communal stocks and keep the tubes on ice.


## 22 Pre-wet spin column

Add  400 µL of clean blocking buffer to a Centrifugal 0.1 µm filter unit (Millipore, UFC30VV00)

**22.1**  10000 rcf, Room temperature, 00:01:00, discard flowthrough

1m

## 23 Add antibody mix to the filter unit

**23.1**  10000 rcf, Room temperature, 00:01:00

1m

## Stain 1 (Overnight)

**24** Add filtered antibody master mix (120µL) onto the sequenza assembly

**25** Place the moist chamber at 4°C  Overnight, preferably in a place with low disturbance

10h


## Post staining washing step

- 26 Following overnight incubation, wash twice with 1 mL of wash buffer
- 27 After the 1h incubation, wash twice with PBS wash buffer within the sequenza assembly by pipetting 2x 1mL.

## Prepare solutions

### 28 Prepare fresh 2% glutaraldehyde fixing solution

Glutaraldehyde fixing solution


1. Add  30 mL of 1x PBS low barium in a 50 mL tube
2. Break the glass glutaraldehyde 8% (amber vial)
3. Add the glutaraldehyde (10 mL) to the diluent by inverting it and tapping the bottom of the vial
4. Transfer the content in a linear stainer container

### 29 Set the linear stainer containers

Fill containers with the following solution and order

Glutaraldehyde x 1, PBS low barium x 1, TRIS 100 mM pH 8.5 x 3, ddH<sub>2</sub>O x 2, 70% Ethanol x1, 80% Ethanol x1, 95% Ethanol x 2, 100% Ethanol x 2, exit stainless steel tank = empty

## Glutaraldehyde fixation

- 30 Disassemble the sequenza setup. Make sure at this point that the slide doesn't dry out and directly proceed to the next steps.
- 31 Mount the slides on the linear slide holder
- Fix in 2% glutaraldehyde for  00:05:00
- 32 Rinse briefly with 1x PBS low barium

## Dehydration and Storage

2h 10m

### 33 Press on **Menu**

10m

Check for Processing time = 30 sec, Lift bar = 976, Number of dips = 3

Continue to press **Menu** until the screen displays **Start at: \_\_**

Set Start position corresponding to the first slide carrier position

Exemple: If the first slide carrier is at position 3, use Plus (+) or Minus (-) button to increase or decrease to get **Start at: 03**

#### 33.1 Then press **Enter**

#### 33.2 Press **Run** on the Linear Stainer

#### 33.3 Allow the dehydration process and wait until the slides reached the **empty stainless steel tank** and stop

#### 33.4 Store the slides immediately under vacuum until MIBI acquisition

2h

Alternatively, the stained slides can be stored in a vacuum sealed bag for longterm storage pre and post MIBI acquisition