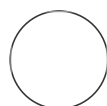




APR 21, 2023

Bone Decalcification Protocol Using 14% EDTA Buffer Solution pH 7.2 - 7.4

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ABSTRACT

This protocol describes the steps required for successful decalcification. Decalcification describes the technique for removing minerals from bone or other calcified tissue so that good-quality paraffin sections can be prepared that will preserve all the essential microscopic elements. Decalcification is carried out after the specimen has been thoroughly fixed and prior to routine processing to paraffin.

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

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PROTOCOL integer ID:
78391

MATERIALS

A	B	C
10% Buffered Formalin	Fisher	STL286001
Ethylenediaminetetraacetic (Acid free EDTA)	VWR	97061-404
Ammonium hydroxide	Fisher	1336216
Phosphate Buffered Saline	Gibco	10010-023

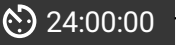
Preparation of Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA)


- 1 Make 14% EDTA solution fresh
 - a. Add  140 g free acid EDTA to  700 mL distilled H₂O
 - b. On stir plate in the fume hood, add ammonium hydroxide,  30 mL at a time, until solution clears (about  90 mL total)
 - c. Add H₂O to almost  1 L. Check pH and adjust with ammonium hydroxide dropwise up to pH 7.4, then adjust final volume to  1 L

Procedure

3d

- 2 Dissect bone and remove as much soft tissue as possible.

3 After appropriate fixation in 10% buffered formalin -  24:00:00 -  48:00:00 hours, wash tissue in distilled H₂O or used EDTA solution. 3d

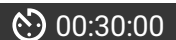
4 Place tissue in 14% EDTA solution at  4 °C C on a stirring device to circulate the EDTA. Use enough solution to saturate tissue (fluid volume to tissue ratio is critical for the decalcification process). The EDTA solution should be at least 20X the volume of the tissue to ensure proper decalcification.

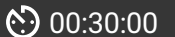
Note

Fluid volume to tissue ratio is critical for the decalcification process.

5 Periodically check bone for adequate decalcification. Refresh EDTA solution daily for first 5 days, then may leave in same EDTA solution without changing.

6 Decalcification is complete when bone is soft and pliable. This may take 10 days or more depending on tissue size. Can check by X-ray, or probe with a needle and/or bend tissue to determine if tissue is soft enough to section. Over-decalcification will cause tissue or cells to lose affinity for certain stains.

7 Rinse once with Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) for  00:30:00 minutes 30m

8 Rinse twice in ddH₂O for  00:30:00 minutes 30m

9 Place in 70% Etanol (EtOH). Store at  4 °C (no more than 2 weeks)

10 Proceed with tissue processing