



Feb 15, 2022

# Gallyas-silver stain

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[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b44cqysw](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b44cqysw)

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Simplified Gallyas-silver staining protocol that works for pathological staining in rodent and human tissue

DOI

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b44cqysw](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b44cqysw)

Christiana.bjorkli, María José Lagartos Donate 2022. Gallyas-silver stain.

**protocols.io**

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b44cqysw>



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Solutions that can be made in advance and stored in a fume hood

1 Make 4% of **NaOH** (sodium hydroxide) - use gloves, store in fume hood

1.1 1g **NaOH** + 25ml **H<sub>2</sub>O**

2 Make 2 x 600ml **dH<sub>2</sub>O** – use gloves, store in fume hood

2.1 1.5g **ammonium nitrate** + 1.2g **silver nitrate** + 3.6g of 4%**NaOH**



**Ammonium nitrate** can cause an explosion with metals  
Reaction between **silver nitrate** and ethanol is explosive  
Reaction between **silver nitrate** and **NaOH** can form inflammable gases/vapors

3 Make **acetic acid** – use gloves, store in fume hood

3.1 0.5%: 3ml **acetic acid** in 597ml H<sub>2</sub>O  
0.1%: 0.6ml **acetic acid** in 600ml H<sub>2</sub>O  
0.05%: 50ml 0.5% **acetic acid** + 450ml H<sub>2</sub>O

4 Make 0.2% **potassium ferricyanide** – can be stored up to a week, use gloves, store in fume hood

4.1 0.6g **potassium ferricyanide** in 300ml H<sub>2</sub>O

5 Make 0.5% **sodium thiosulfate** - use gloves, store in fume hood

5.1 1.5g **sodium thiosulfate** in 300ml H<sub>2</sub>O

6 Make 25%, 50%, 70%, 95% and 100% **ethanol**

Solutions that need to be prepared on the same day of staining

7 Make **pyridine + acetic acid** - use gloves, store in fume hood

## 7.1 100ml **pyridine** + 50ml **acetic acid**



**Pyridine** is incompatible with rubber, plastics, and metals! Very important to use butyl-rubber gloves with this chemical

## 8 Make **silver nitrate** (add in this order) - use gloves, store in fume hood

8.1 100ml **dH2O**  
0.192g **ammonium nitrate**  
0.2g **silver nitrate**  
0.6ml of 4% **NaOH**  
pH must be 7.5



**Ammonium nitrate** can cause an explosion with metals  
Reaction between **silver nitrate** and **ethanol** is explosive  
Reaction between **silver nitrate** and **NaOH** can form inflammable gases/vapors

## 9 Make **A + B + C** (1L) - use gloves, store in fume hood

9.1 **Solution A**  
5g anhydrous sodium carbonate + 100ml dH2O

**Solution B** (add in this order)  
100ml dH2O + 0.19g ammonium nitrate + 0.2g silver nitrate + 1g silicongulistic (tungolistic) acid

**Solution C** (add in this order)  
100ml dH2O + 0.19g ammonium nitrate + 0.2g silver nitrate + 1g silicongulistic (tungolistic) acid + 0.66ml 37% formaldehyde

**A + B + C** - use gloves, store in fume hood  
50ml **A** + 37.5ml **B** + 37.5ml **C** (25±2°C)



**Ammonium nitrate** can cause an explosion with metals  
Reaction between **silver nitrate** and **ethanol** is explosive  
Reaction between **silver nitrate** and **NaOH** can form inflammable gases/vapors  
**Formaldehyde** may cause cancer

#### Consumables for staining

- 10
- 17 x glass petri dishes
  - 20 x glass pipettes
  - 1 x rubber pump for glass pipettes
  - Butyl rubber gloves
  - Lab coat with long arms
  - Protective eyewear
  - Face mask

Need to use glass petri dishes and glass pipettes for each wash

#### Gallyas-silver staining

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Step	Reagent	Minutes	Comments
1	<b>dH2O</b>	3 or more	Put in dH2O while preparing other solutions
2	<b>Pyridine + acetic acid</b>	60	On shaker
3	<b>50% ethanol</b>	3	
4	<b>25% ethanol</b>	3	
5	<b>0.05% acetic acid</b>	2.5	
6	<b>0.1% acetic acid</b>	2.5	
7	<b>0.05% acetic acid</b>	10	Leave longer if necessary, to prepare silver nitrate
8	<b>Silver nitrate</b>	60	On shaker – make A+ B + C
9	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>	10	

10	<b>A + B + C</b>	6 (15min human)	Do not let the tissue become dark, time is dependent on sample
11	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>	1	New
12	<b>0.2% potassium ferricyanide</b>	5	On shaker
13	<b>dH2O</b>	1	
14	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>	1	New, can be reused
15	<b>0.5% sodium thiosulfate</b>	2	On shaker
16	<b>dH2O</b>	4	
17	<b>dH2O</b>	4	
18	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>	1	Use the one from the previous step
19	<b>A + B + C</b>	3-4	On shaker
20	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>		Use the one from the previous step
21	<b>0.2% potassium ferricyanide</b>	3	On shaker
22	<b>dH2O</b>	1	
23	<b>0.5% sodium thiosulfate</b>	2	On shaker
24	<b>dH2O</b>	4	
25	<b>dH2O</b>	4	
26	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>	1	New, can be reused
27	<b>A + B + C</b>	3-4	On shaker
28	<b>0.5% acetic acid</b>	1	Use the one from the previous step
29	<b>0.2% potassium ferricyanide</b>	10	On shaker
30	<b>dH2O</b>	1	
31	<b>0.5% sodium thiosulfate</b>	2	On shaker
32	<b>dH2O</b>	Fast wash	
33	<b>dH2O</b>	5	
34	Dehydrate	3 in each	50% - 70% -95% - 100% - 100% ethanol
35	<b>Xylene x 2</b>	3 in each	
36	Coverslip		