

How to Increase Cell Retention in Fixation

A simple way to significantly increase cell retention in the fixation protocol is to coat the 15 mL falcon tubes with 1% BSA.

Note: We recommend using Gibco Bovine Albumin Fraction V (7.5% solution). See Fixation User Manual V1.3.0 Appendix A for product details.

To coat the tubes:

1. Make a solution of **1% BSA with water**, allowing 15 mL of solution for each tube.
2. Fill each 15 mL tube with the 1% BSA solution to the 15 mL mark.
3. Incubate at room temperature for **30 minutes**.
4. Pour BSA out of the tubes, and use a P1000 pipette set to 1 mL to remove the remaining BSA in the bottom of the tube.
5. With the tubes uncapped, allow them to air dry in a biosafety cabinet (BSC) for an additional **30 minutes**.
6. Proceed to fixation, or store BSA coated tubes at 4°C for up to 4 weeks.

