

Formalin pigment (acid hematin):

- **Appearance:** brown-black birefringent granules after acidic formalin or long fixation.
- **Removal:** alcoholic picric acid OR 10% ammonium hydroxide in 70% ethanol.

Mercury pigment:

- **Source:** mercuric chloride fixatives (B-5, Zenker).
- **Removal:** iodine (saturated alcoholic or Lugol's) -> sodium thiosulfate rinse.

Tips: Treat before staining; log reagent lots/times; avoid acid formalin conditions to prevent pigment.