

Standard Operating Procedure For Hematoxylin and Eosin Staining



The Mycetoma Research Center University of Khartoum WHO Collaborating Center on Mycetoma & Skin NTDs



Standard Operating Procedure for Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) Staining

Number: 004/SP/MRC/2024

Date: April 03 2024





Purpose

This SOP provides a standardised method for performing Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) staining of paraffin-embedded tissue sections to ensure consistent and high-quality staining results.

Scope

This SOP applies to all personnel in the histopathology laboratory involved in staining tissue sections using the H&E technique.



Responsibilities

Laboratory Technicians

Responsible for performing the staining procedure according to this SOP.

Laboratory Supervisor

Ensures that the SOP is followed and that the equipment and reagents are available and maintained.

Quality Control Personnel

Responsible for verifying the accuracy and consistency of the staining results.



Materials and Reagents

- Paraffin-embedded tissue sections (4-5 µm thick)
- Xylene
- Absolute ethanol (100%)
- 95% ethanol
- 70% ethanol
- Distilled water
- Hematoxylin solution (Mayer's or Harris)
- Eosin Y solution



MR

Materials and Reagents

- Acid alcohol (0.3% hydrochloric acid in 70% ethanol)
- Ammonia water (0.1% ammonium hydroxide)
- Mounting medium (e.g., DPX)
- Glass slides and coverslips
- Slide rack and staining dishes
- Timer
- Fume hood
- Micropipettes and tips







Equipment





- Microscope
- Microtome
- Water bath
- Slide dryer or incubator
- Automated staining machine





- 1. Dewaxing and Rehydration
- Place the paraffin-embedded tissue sections on glass slides.
- Place the slides in xylene for 5 minutes (two changes).
- Transfer the slides to absolute ethanol for 2 minutes (two changes).
- Sequentially rehydrate the slides by placing them in 95% ethanol for 2 minutes, 70% ethanol for 2 minutes, and then rinse in distilled water for 2 minutes.

2. Hematoxylin Staining

- Submerge the slides in hematoxylin solution for 5-10 minutes (time may vary depending on the hematoxylin type used).
- Rinse the slides in tap water for 1-2 minutes.
- Differentiate in acid alcohol for 1-2 seconds (optional, depending on desired intensity).
- Rinse quickly in tap water.
- Blue the slides by dipping them in ammonia water for 30 seconds or until the blue colour is apparent.
- Rinse the slides in tap water for 5 minutes to remove excess bluing agent.





3. Eosin Staining

- Submerge the slides in eosin Y solution for 1-2 minutes.
- Rinse quickly in distilled water to remove excess eosin.







4. Dehydration and Clearing

- Dehydrate the slides by sequential immersion in 70% ethanol, 95% ethanol, and absolute ethanol (2 minutes each).
- Clear the slides in xylene for 5 minutes (two changes).







5. Mounting

- Apply a drop of mounting medium to the tissue section and cover with a coverslip.
- Allow the slides to dry in a fume hood or an incubator.

6. Microscopic Examination

 Examine the slides under a microscope to ensure adequate staining and tissue morphology.











- Include a control slide with each batch of staining.
- Record any deviations from the SOP and any issues with staining quality.



8. Cleaning and Maintenance

- Clean all equipment and work surfaces after use.
- Dispose of used reagents according to laboratory safety guidelines.



Xylene	2 minutes	Water wash	1 minute
Xylene	2 minutes	Bluing	1 minute
100% ethanol	2 minutes	Water wash	1 minute
100% ethanol	2 minutes	95% ethanol	1 minute
95% ethanol	2 minutes	Eosin	45 seconds
Water wash	2 minutes	95% ethanol	1 minute
		100% ethanol	1 minute
Hematoxylin	3 minutes	100% ethanol	1 minute
Water wash	1 minute	Xylene	2 minutes
Differentiator (mild acid)	1 minute	Xylene	2 minutes
		Coverslip	



- Wick MR. The hematoxylin and eosin stain in anatomic pathology-An often-neglected focus of quality assurance in the laboratory. Semin Diagn Pathol. 2019 Sep;36(5):303-311. doi: 10.1053/j.semdp.2019.06.003. Epub 2019 Jun 4. PMID: 31230963.
- Feldman AT, Wolfe D. Tissue processing and hematoxylin and eosin staining. Methods Mol Biol. 2014;1180:31-43. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-1050-2_3. PMID: 25015141.
- Cardiff RD, Miller CH, Munn RJ. Manual hematoxylin and eosin staining of mouse tissue sections. Cold Spring Harb Protoc. 2014 Jun 2;2014(6):655-8. doi: 10.1101/pdb.prot073411. PMID: 24890205.
- Titford M. The long history of hematoxylin. Biotechnic & Histochemistry. 2005; 80 (2): 73–80. doi:10.1080/10520290500138372. PMID 16195172.
- Smith C. Our debt to the logwood tree: the history of hematoxylin. MLO Med Lab Obs. 2006; 38 (5): 18, 20–2.
 PMID 16761865.
- Dapson RW, Horobin RW. Dyes from a twenty-first century perspective. Biotech Histochem. 2009; 84 (4): 135– 7. doi:10.1080/10520290902908802. PMID 19384743. S2CID 28563610.
- Rosai J. Why microscopy will remain a cornerstone of surgical pathology. Lab Invest. 2007; 87 (5): 403–8. doi:10.1038/labinvest.3700551. PMID 17401434.
- Chan JK. The wonderful colors of the hematoxylin-eosin stain in diagnostic surgical pathology. Int J Surg Pathol. 2014; 22 (1): 12–32. doi:10.1177/1066896913517939. PMID 24406626. S2CID 26847314.









Attachments

Flowchart of the H&E staining process

Troubleshooting guide for common staining issues

Document Control

Version history and changes

Dark Brown to yellow grains, with fungal Hyphae at the center of the grains and yellow cement matrix was observed in the periphery of the grains surrounded by neutrophils, lymphocytes and macrophages. H&E stain X40







Madurella Mycetomatis grain with surrounding numerous neutrophils, macrophages, lymphocytes, and foreign body giant cells, H&E X20

Approval

This SOP was prepared, reviewed, and approved by

Miss Nema Ahmed EL Faki	Technologist	Nema
Dr Abdullah Osman Ahmed	Senior Researcher	Æbdullah
Prof Ahmed Fahal	Center Director	Fahal

April 03 2024







The Mycetoma Research Center University of Khartoum WHO Collaborating Center on Mycetoma & Skin NTDs

www.mycetoma.edu.sd