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Mount Quick Tissue (or Cell) Transfer Technique Technical Memo

COMPONENTS:

Mount Quick Mounting Media

Catalog #6270A

ADDITIONALLY NEEDED:

Diamond Marking Pen
Scalpel Blade
Pre-coated Slides (if needed for procedure)
Graded Ethyl Alcohol
Xylene

APPLICATIONS:

This technique can be used when there is a limited specimen available, such as: 1) cytology preparations or 2) paraffin sections of small biopsies, e.g. small foci of tumor on slides where there is no tumor left in the block. In the situations of needing an increased number of tissue sections or cell preparations in order to perform several immunohistochemical stains, or simply to be able to move the tissue to a positively charged slide. This technique allows for the transfer of stained or unstained tissue to other slides.

METHOD:

1. Using a diamond pen, mark the designated areas on the underside of the slide.
2. a. For stained sections, remove the coverslip of the original slide by soaking in xylene.
b. For unstained paraffin sections or smears, soak slides in xylene to prepare tissue to accept mounting media.
c. For tissue that is on a charged slide, you will need to soak the slides for a longer time.
3. Spread the Mount Quick media on xylene-coated slides with an orange stick or a Pasteur pipette. Cover the entire area of the smear or section. Use sufficient media to form a meniscus over the tissue.

4. Place the slide in a 60° C oven for at least 1½ to 2 hours **OR** in a 37° C oven overnight until the mounting media hardens. **Whichever technique you use, the most important part is that the mounting media MUST be hardened.**
5. Using a diamond pen, mark the surface of the mounting media to the corresponding areas marked on the underside of the slides.
6. Immerse the slide in warm water and soak for an hour or longer.
7. Slowly pry the mounting media off at the edges with a scalpel blade. If the mounting media does not peel off easily, continue soaking.
8. Once the media section is removed from the original slide, the specimen can be cut with a scissors or a scalpel blade into segments as scored on the original slide.
9. Each segment is then placed on a separate adhesive-coated slide. **Take care to place the same side of the cut segment down onto the new slide as it was on the original slide.** If the segment is inadvertently placed upside down, the specimen will not adhere to the slide and will be subsequently lost later in the procedure.
10. Use water to moisten the slide and the segment so that adhesion will take place.
11. Wearing a glove, soak a piece of gauze in warm water and place it on top of the tissue section. Press the gauze flat using the flat of your thumb to get all the water out of the gauze. This helps to keep the edges of the transfer media down.
12. Place the slides in a 37° - 60° C oven at a horizontal position for one hour or longer.
13. Place the slides in xylene (4 changes, 3 minutes each), until all the Mount-Quick compound is dissolved. **Note: If the Mount-Quick is not completely dissolved, an additional 2-4 minutes may be needed in each xylene.**
14. Re-hydrate the specimen with 2 changes of absolute ethyl alcohol, 95% ethyl alcohol and water.

RESULTS:

The specimen is now ready for cytochemical, histochemical or immunohistochemical staining. Experience to date indicates that the cells, the quality of the smears and the antigenicity of the cells after the application of this technique remain unaltered.

PROCEDURE NOTES:

1. Do not use temperatures above 60° C.
2. Transfer the specimen numbers using pre-labeled slides in order to identify the specimen throughout the procedure.
3. Best adhesion results with positively charged adhesive coated slides.
4. If a hot plate was used to spread out the paraffin after picking up the original section, it is **VERY** difficult to get the entire section off of the slide. Extended soaking of the tissue section does not seem to improve the results.

REFERENCES:

The original references used a mounting media made in Europe and no longer imported in to U.S.A. The procedure has been duplicated successfully by D. Joseph using the Mount-Quick Mounting Media.

1. **“The Preparation of Serial Microscopic Section in Form of Plastic Films.”** Demonstration at the Annual meeting of the International Academy of Pathology, Weibel, E., Shenk, R., Morger, R., Toendury, G., Boston, 1959.
2. **“Application of Diatex Compound in Cytology: Use in Preparing Multiple Slides from a Single Routine Smear”**, Jimenez, Joseph D., Gangi, MD, Acta Cytol 30:445, 1986.
3. **“Diagnostic Immunocytochemistry and Electron Microscopy – Preparing Multiple Slides From a Single Smear”**, Yazdi H., Dardick, I., Igaku-Shoin, New York-Tokyo, 1992, pp. 36-39.

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