

## Schmorl Melanin Stain - Technical Memo

### SOLUTIONS:

Ferric Chloride 1%, Aqueous  
Potassium Ferricyanide 1%, Aqueous

	250 ml	500 ml
	Part 10855A	Part 10855B
	Part 13390A	Part 13390B

### Additionally Needed:

Melanin Control Slides	Part 4430
Nuclear Fast Red Stain, Kernechtrot	Part 1255
Xylene, ACS	Part 1445
Alcohol, Ethyl Denatured, 100%	Part 10841
Alcohol, Ethyl Denatured, 95%	Part 10842

*For storage requirements and expiration date refer to individual product labels.*

### APPLICATION:

Newcomer Supply Schmorl Melanin Stain demonstrates sites of reduction activity in tissue sections. A positive reaction indicates the presence of melanin and other reducing substances such as; argentaffin, chromaffin, bile and formalin pigment.

### METHOD:

**Fixation:** Formalin 10%, Phosphate Buffered (1090)

**Technique:** Paraffin sections cut at 4 microns

**Solutions:** All solutions are manufactured by Newcomer Supply, Inc.

All Newcomer Supply stain procedures are designed to be used with Coplin jars filled to 40 ml following the provided staining procedure.

### PRESTAINING PREPARATION:

1. If necessary, heat dry tissue sections/slides in oven.
2. Prepare Ferric Chloride-Potassium Ferricyanide Working Solution; combine and mix well.
  - a. Ferric Chloride 1%, Aqueous 30 ml
  - b. Potassium Ferricyanide 1%, Aqueous 10 ml

### STAINING PROCEDURE:

3. Deparaffinize sections thoroughly in three changes of xylene, 3 minutes each. Hydrate through two changes each of 100% and 95% ethyl alcohols, 10 dips each. Wash well with distilled water.
  - a. See Procedure Notes #1 and #2.
4. Place in Ferric Chloride-Potassium Ferricyanide Working Solution (Step #2) for 5 to 10 minutes.
  - a. See Procedure Note #3.
5. Wash well in running tap water.
6. Counterstain in Nuclear Fast Red Stain, Kernechtrot (1255) for 5 minutes.
  - a. Shake solution well before use; do not filter.
7. Rinse well in distilled water.
  - a. See Procedure Note #4.
8. Dehydrate quickly through two changes each of 95% and 100% ethyl alcohol. Clear in three changes of xylene, 10 dips each; coverslip with compatible mounting medium.

### RESULTS:

Melanin & other reducing substances	Blue
Nuclei	Pink-red
Cytoplasm	Pale pink

### PROCEDURE NOTES:

1. Drain slides after each step to prevent solution carry over.
2. Do not allow sections to dry out at any point during procedure.
3. Melanin will react quicker than other reducing substances; adjust reaction time accordingly.
4. Wash well after Nuclear Fast Red Stain, Kernechtrot to avoid cloudiness in dehydration steps.
5. If using a xylene substitute, follow manufacturer's recommendation for deparaffinization and clearing steps.

### REFERENCES:

1. Bancroft, John D. and Marilyn Gamble. *Theory and Practice of Histological Techniques*. 6th ed. Oxford: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2008. 243-244.
2. Carson, Freida L. and Christa Hladik. *Histotechnology: A Self-Instructional Text*. 3rd ed. Chicago, Ill.: American Society of Clinical Pathologists, 2009. 259-260.
3. Sheehan, Dezna C. and Barbara B. Hrapchak. *Theory and Practice of Histotechnology*. 2nd ed. St. Louis: Mosby, 1980. 223.
4. Modifications developed by Newcomer Supply Laboratory.