

DECALCIFICATION ENDPOINT INDICATOR TECHNICAL MEMO

COMPONENTS:

Solution A, Ammonium Hydroxide

Solution B, Ammonium Oxalate

APPLICATIONS:

This procedure will help avoid one of the more common causes of loss of specimen morphology: over decalcification. It helps you limit the process to just what is needed to maintain specimen quality at a higher level.

The following simple test is designed to tell you two things:

When your decalcification solution is exhausted and needs to be changed.

When your specimen is not decalcified enough.

METHOD:

Pipette 5 ml solution A into suitably sized flask or tube.

Add 5 ml of solution B

Add 5 ml of solution from the bottom of decalcification vessel. (Avoid picking up particulates in the pipette.)

Let stand 15 minutes.

If the test aliquot is clear, decalcification is completed and solution is still usable.

If cloudy, the solution is exhausted, indicated by the precipitated calcium oxalate, and decalcification is not complete. Change the fluid and proceed, testing frequently.

REFERENCES:

Luna, L.G.; Histopathologic Methods and Color Atlas of Special Stains and Tissue Artifacts, 1st Edition, Johnson Printers, Maryland, 1992.