**UW Medicine - Pathology**

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Melanin Bleach Method Procedure

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| Adopted Date: 09/10/97  Review Date: 12/14/10  Revision Date: 04/12/13 |

PURPOSE

To identify the method for bleaching out melanin.

PROCEDURE

**Fixative:**

10% buffered neutral formalin.

**Sections:**

Paraffin at 6-12 microns.

**Solutions:**

**0.25% Potassium Permanganate Solution**

Potassium permanganate 0.25 gm

Distilled water 100.0 ml

Solution stable for 6 months.

**5% Oxalic Acid Solution**

Oxalic acid 5.0 gm

Distilled water 100.0 ml

**Procedure:**

1. Deparaffinize and hydrate to distilled water.
2. Place in potassium permanganate solution for 5 minutes or longer.
3. Rinse carefully in distilled water.
4. Place in oxalic acid solution for 5 seconds or until the sections become clear.
5. Rinse carefully in distilled water.
6. Stain as indicated.

**Results:**

Melanin and lipofuscin pigments removed

REFERENCES

AFIP Laboratory Methods in Histology, p186.

Written By: Director Approval:

(Signature and Date) (Signature and Date)

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Histology Supervisor