

SMITH & ATKINSON'S METHOD FOR MAST CELLS

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| PURPOSE: | For In Vitro Diagnostic Use: Intended for the qualitative demonstration of mast cells. |
| PRINCIPLE: | Toluidine Blue is a metachromatic dye which overstains the tissue. Mast cells, due to their heparin and histamine content, can withstand an acid wash which decolorizes other tissue components. |
| CONTROL: | Skin, mast cell tumor Control Slides can be purchased from Histology Control Systems. See inside back cover, Item# cs030. |
| SPECIMEN PREPARATION: | Formalin fixed, paraffin embedded sections cut at 6 micrometers |
| SOLUTIONS: | 1. Toluidine Blue 0.25% Alcoholic Item# s2192 2. Acid Alcohol 0.5% Item# s103B 3. Eosin Y 0.01% Alcoholic Item# s2193 Solutions can be purchased separately from Poly Scientific. |
| NOTES: | |
| REFERENCE: | Luna, Lee G. <u>Histopathologic Methods and Color Atlas of Special Stains and Tissue Artifacts</u> . American Histolabs Inc. Gaithersburg, MD. 1992. pp. 311-312. |

STAINING PROCEDURE:

1. Deparaffinize slides in 2 changes each of Xylene, Reagent Alcohol, 95% Reagent Alcohol.
2. Place slides in Absolute Alcohol and 95% Alcohol, 3 changes for 2 minutes each.
3. Stain slides for 1 hour in Toluidine Blue 0.25% Alcoholic.
4. After the sections are stained rinse briefly in Acid Alcohol 0.5% to remove excess dye until the sections are grossly colorless.
5. Counterstain lightly by dipping in Eosin Y 0.01% Alcoholic.
6. Clear slides in Absolute Alcohol and Xylene, 3 changes each for 2 minutes each.
7. Mount with Poly Mount (Item# s2153) or any other acceptable mounting medium.

RESULTS:

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| Mast Cells | Deep Blue–Purple |
| Cytoplasm | Pale Pink |

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