

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 11867
VERSION: 1**

SUBJECT/TITLE: SS 005 - OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL STAINNG TECHNIQUES

POLICY: Upon the request of the pathologists, patient tissue specimens will be stained utilizing automated or manual special staining techniques.

PURPOSE: For the visualization of specific tissue components utilizing automated and manual staining protocols.

DEPARTMENTS: PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY SERVICES

DEFINITIONS: **Artisan Automated Staining Instrument:** The Artisan staining ensemble consists of a staining unit, computer system and patented reagent cartridges that provide precision dispensing of reagents for optimal staining quality.
Manual Staining Techniques: Manual staining techniques are performed by incubating patient tissue slides in manually prepared staining reagents.
Staining Protocols: Individualized staining instructions that are in the Special Stains Procedure Manual.

PROCEDURE: **Fixation**

- 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin
- 95% Alcohol may be utilized for smeared and touch-prep slides

Note: Refer to the required special stain protocol for specific instructions

Equipment

- Artisan Automated Staining Instrument
- Assorted beakers and coplin jars for manual staining

Reagents

Artisan
Ready to use reagent cartridges
Wash Buffer
95% Alcohol
100% Alcohol
Xylene
Distilled Water

Manual Staining
Staining reagents (for requested stain)
95% Alcohol
100% Alcohol
Xylene
Distilled Water

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Pre-Treatment

Prior to staining, all tissue slides must be **completely** deparaffinized and rehydrated. After this procedure is completed, place the slides into distilled water.

Artisan – After placing the slides on the automated stainer, squirt some wash buffer on each slide before initiating the staining run.

Manual – Staining procedures may be performed after slides have been placed into distilled water. However, one may refer to the specific staining protocols for detailed instructions.

Post Treatment

Upon completion of the staining protocols, the tissue slides will be dehydrated, cover-slipped and distributed to the pathologists.

Quality Control

Artisan – Staining issues related to the Artisan Stainer may be resolved by referring to the Artisan System User Guide or the Ready to Use Reagent pack insert. If the issues persist, obtain the instrument’s serial number and contact Agilent Technical Services. If a resolution cannot be achieved in a timely manner, then manual staining will be required.

Manual Staining – Manual staining issues may be resolved by a repeat of the stain, taking care to follow the staining protocols and/or checking the positive tissue control. If the staining issue persists, consult with the supervisor or designee.

Special Note:

Differences in tissue processing and technical procedures may produce significant variability in results, therefore, positive tissue control should always be utilized.

References: 1. Dako, Artisan Staining System User Guide, Document Number 0000788, Revision A, November 2004	
2. Histotechnology, A Self-Instructional Test, Freida L. Carson, Second Edition, ASCP Press, Chicago, Ill, 1997	
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