



Brain Preparation and Shipping Instructions

These instructions are intended to be used by a hospital pathologist, a forensic autopsy technician, or someone similar.

Fixative

The typical and preferred fixative is 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin. Other similar fixatives are acceptable. Arterial embalming fluid may be used if formalin is not available.

Perfusion

If you are set up for perfusion, the preservation quality can be slightly better. Perfusion is performed through the carotids, and may be by gravity or by a pump at low speed. Flushing first with saline prior to formalin may help with washout of the blood cells.

Surgical

Remove the brain from the skull in the usual manner, being as gentle as possible. Take special care not to make cuts in the brain.

Immersion

Immerse in formalin for two weeks. It is standard to hang from a string by the basilar artery and change the formalin regularly, depending on volume, for a total brain to fixative ratio of 1:20.

Shipping

We will send out a shipping container.

1. Drain liquid from brain
2. Place in provided two gallon Ziploc bag. Squeeze air out, and seal bag.
3. Place in the 1.25 gallon plastic container, and surround with absorbent padding. Screw on lid tightly.
4. Pack the plastic container into the original cardboard box using the original packing material. Tape.
5. Affix our prepaid return label. Send.

Questions

If you have questions about the instructions above, you can call us at any time.

Jordan Sparks, DMD,
Executive Director