

Product Information

Melanin Bleach Kit

Catalog Number **SHH0021**
Store at Room Temperature

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Product Description

Melanins are pale brown to dark brown or black pigments which are found intracellular in cytoplasm. Melanins are found in hair, skin, retina, and the substantia nigra of the brain.

In tissue sections, when melanin pigment is present in large amounts, cellular detail may be obscured. The removal of melanin from tissue sections allows for positive staining to be interpreted correctly, especially if 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB) staining is used. Melanin may interfere with DAB results when using special stains or other histochemical staining. Other melanin-producing tumors may also obscure structures in skin or brain sections.

Not recommended for immunohistochemistry procedures.

Components

Solutions are provided ready to use and need no additional preparation.

Pretreatment Solution A, Catalog Number SHH0021A	250 ml
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Pretreatment Solution B, Catalog Number SHH0021B	250 ml
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Precautions and Disclaimer

For R&D use only. Not for drug, household, or other uses. Please consult the Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling practices.

Storage/Stability

Store the Melanin Bleach Kit at room temperature.

Procedure

1. Prepare a 4–6 micron fixed tissue section of a melanin-containing tissue, such as skin or retina, for use as a control.
2. Mount the fixed tissue sections on slides and hydrate with distilled water.
3. Treat the sections with Pretreatment Solution A for 5 minutes.
4. After treatment, wash the slides in running tap water.
5. Treat the sections with Pretreatment Solution B for 1 minute.
6. After treatment, wash the slides in running water.
7. Check the slides microscopically for reduction of melanin. Repeat steps 3–6 if necessary to reduce the color of the melanin, extending the treatment time if necessary. Some melanin pigments may be difficult to bleach, e.g., ocular melanin may require one hour of incubation with Pretreatment Solution A.
8. After the tissue sections have been bleached, rinse the slides in distilled water and proceed with staining using hematoxylin and eosin, or special stains.
9. Dehydrate, clear, and mount once the desired staining procedure is completed.

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