

IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY (ICC)

This immunocytochemistry protocol should be used as a guide for each researcher to build their own protocol, as each reagent will need to be optimized for use in the particular species, tissue type and application combination.

Reagents Required

- 1) PBS Wash Buffer. Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS). Use 10x PBS, pH 7.2 (0.2M Potassium Phosphate, 1.5M NaCl). Dilute appropriate volume to 1x with de-ionized water.
- 2) Formaldehyde Fixative. Dilute to 4% in PBS buffer.
- 3) Antibody Dilution Buffer. Prepare 100ml of PBS wash buffer supplemented with 1ml of normal serum of same species as the host for the secondary antibody.
- 4) Biotinylated Secondary Antibody. Prepare dilution of biotinylated secondary antibody in Antibody Dilution Buffer. Use biotinylated secondary antibody conjugate against the same species as the primary antibody.
- 5) Streptavidin Peroxidase. Prepare dilution of Streptavidin Peroxidase in PBS buffer.
- 6) DAB Substrate.
- 7) Hematoxylin Counterstain and Mounting Media

Procedure

- 1) Rinse sections in PBS-Tween 20 for 2 x 2 minutes.
- 2) Serum Blocking: incubate sections with normal serum block – species same as secondary antibody, for 30 minutes to block non-specific binding of immunoglobulin. Note: since this protocol uses avidin-biotin detection system, avidin/biotin block may be needed based on tissue type. If you do require this, the avidin/biotin block should be done after the normal serum block.
- 3) Primary Antibody: incubate sections with primary antibody at appropriate dilution in primary antibody dilution buffer for 1 hour at room temperature or overnight at 4 °C.
- 4) Rinse in PBS-Tween 20.
- 5) Secondary Antibody: incubate sections with biotinylated secondary antibody at appropriate dilution in PBS for 30 minutes at room temperature.
- 6) Rinse in PBS-Tween 20 for 3 x 2 minutes.
- 7) Detection: incubate sections in FITC-Avidin D in PBS for 30 minutes at room temperature. Protecting slides from light starting from this step to the end by covering slides with aluminum foil or black box.

- 8) Rinse in PBS-Tween 20 for 3 x 2 minutes.
- 9) Counterstain with PI or DAPI if desired.
- 10) Rinse in PBS-Tween 20.
- 11) Dehydrate through 95% ethanol for 2 min, 100% ethanol for 2 x 3 minutes.
- 12) Coverslip with anti-fade mounting medium.