

Risk Assessment: Preparation of slides for immunohistochemistry (IHC)

Scope

Once paraffin sections have been prepared, in order to perform IHC and subsequently mount slides they must undergo dehydration through a graded series of alcohols (Ethanol) to Xylene.

People preparing samples using alcohol and xylene must read all COSHH and RA that are available:

[NDMRB-RA-056](#) Xylene and Xylene [COSHH](#)
Alcohols (MeOH and EtOH) [COSHH](#)

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|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Name of assessor: | Julie Adam | Date of Assessment: | May 2017 | Review Date: | Every three years |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|

Risk Matrix:

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|-------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Risk Matrix | | Likelihood | | | |
| | | High | Medium | Low | Negligible |
| Consequence | Severe | High | High | Medium | Effectively Zero |
| | Moderate | High | Medium | Medium/low | Effectively Zero |
| | Insignificant | Medium/Low | Low | Low | Effectively Zero |
| | Negligible | Effectively Zero | Effectively Zero | Effectively Zero | Effectively Zero |

Risk Assessment:

| Hazard (Cause and consequence) | Affected Groups | Existing controls | Risk | Further Action |
|---|-------------------------|---|--------|---|
| Exposure to Xylene | Staff/students/visitors | <p>Users must wear lab coat, safety glass and glove and this chemical must be handled in a fume hood. Users should be aware of the work place exposure limits which are in force for this compound.</p> <p>For all disposable items (tips, paper etc) that have come into contact with xylene these must be left in a fume hood at least overnight to allow all residual xylene to evaporate off before disposal.</p> <p>For disposal of xylene and xylene contaminated products please see the lab manager</p> | Medium | All users must read and adhere to all the safety information available for Xylene |
| Use of alcohols | Staff/students/visitors | Users must wear lab coat, safety glass and gloves while working with alcohols. All users must read and adhere to all the safety information available | Medium | Ensure that users are aware of appropriate storage and use of flammables |
| Entire and broken slides and cover slips – exposure to cuts | Staff/students/visitors | <p>Glass is not clearly visible if left on a surface. All slides must be stored appropriately and safely. Users must check that all slides are accounted for once work is complete.</p> <p>If a slide is broken or not suitable for use it must be disposed of using the biological sharps/incineration bins.</p> <p>If the slide has tissue fixed upon it then it must be disposed of using the biological sharps/incineration bins</p> | Medium | Users should be aware of the location of new biological sharps/incineration bins. These can be obtained from the autoclave room |

Signed By Author:

Approved by (sign and print):

Reviewed by:

Review date: