

RDO SOAKING ENHANCES RIBBON CUTTING & SAVES KNIVES

1. Remove block from microtome and place face down in RDO solution
2. Allow block to soak for three to five minutes.
3. Remove block and rinse under tap water.
4. Re-chill block and re-mount on microtome.
5. Proceed with normal ribbon cutting routine.

The quality and depth of **RDO** decalcification on blocks that have been under-decalcified is dependent upon the original decal thoroughness and the condition of the specimen. Using **RDO** Rapid decalcifier as a microtome soak saves you time and money by allowing you to salvage problem blocks right at you cutting station. Try **RDO** on the next block that gives you fits.

DECALCIFICATION ENDPOINT INDICATOR TECHNICAL MEMO

I. COMPONENTS:

Solution A, Ammonium Hydroxide
Solution B, Ammonium Oxalate

II. APPLICATIONS

- A. This procedure will help avoid one of the more common causes of loss of specimen morphology: over decalcification. It helps you limit the process to just what is needed to maintain specimen quality at a higher level.
- B. The following simple test is designed to tell you two things:
 1. When your decalcification solution is exhausted and needs to be changed.
 2. When your specimen is not decalcified enough.

III. METHOD

1. Pipette 5ml solution A into suitably sized flask or tube.
2. Add 5ml of solution B
3. Add 5ml of solution from the bottom of decalcification vessel. (Avoid picking up particles in the pipette.)
4. Let stand 15 minutes.
5. If the test aliquot is clear, decalcification is completed and the solution is still usable.
6. If cloudy, the solution is exhausted, indicated by the precipitated calcium oxalate, and decalcification is not complete, change the fluid and proceed, testing frequently.

REFERENCES:

Luna, L.G.: *Histopathologic methods and Color Atlas of Special Stains and Tissue Artifacts*, 1st Editions, Johnson Printers, Maryland, 1992