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1. PURPOSE OF FIXATION
   Fixation is the process by which the morphology and microscopic anatomy of a tissue is preserved as life like. It can be defined also as a process in which a tissue specimen is treated by exposing it to a fixative for a particular period of time in order to facilitate the succeeding steps. The purpose of fixation is primarily to prevent autolysis and putrefaction, and protect the tissue from subsequent processing.
   Putrefaction is caused by bacterial invasion leading to subsequent destruction of the tissue.
   Autolysis is self- destruction due to the action of enzymes which are liberated as soon as cell dies. Autolysis leads to the disappearance of nuclei, cloudiness of the cytoplasm and the cell loses its staining property.
   Fixation is also aimed at;
   minimizing the risk of infection,
   preventing the destruction of the structure of the tissue either by shrinkage or swelling of the cell
   providing a condition to allow clear staining of a section, and increasing optical density.

2. Compound Fixatives and their composition
   Formal saline
   Composition
   Sodium chloride, distilled water and formaldehyde
   Zenkers fluid
   Composition
   Mercuric chloride, potassium sulphate, sodium sulphate, distilled water, glacia acetic acid
   Bouin's fluid
   Composition
   Picric acid(saturated), formalin, Glacia acetic acid

   Champy's fluid
   Composition
   Potassium dichromate, chromic acid, osmium tetroxide
   Neutral buffer formalin

Composition

Formaldehyde, sodium phosphate monobasic, sodium phosphate dibasic