

IHC (immunohistochemistry)

Immunohistochemistry is an exquisitely sensitive method for locating an antigen within a cell or tissue through a high-resolution image (a single cell among thousands or millions). The method is based on the use of a primary antibody binding specifically to its cognate antigen. The bound antibody is then visualized through colorimetric or fluorescent detection methods.

•Deparaffinize and hydrate the tissue section

- 1. Dry slides at 58°C overnight (recommended) or at 65°C for 1-2 hours (for fast experiment)
- 2*1. Put the slides into a rack for IHC
- 3. Dip the rack into 4 consecutive stain jars containing xylene to remove paraffin
 - 10 minutes every step
- 4. Dip the rack into ethanol to remove xylene
 - 100% Ethanol 5min
 - 95% Ethanol 5min
 - 80% Ethanol 5min
 - 70% Ethanol 5min
- 5*2. Rinse the rack with tap water to remove ethanol for 5 minutes

*1. Cool down the slides at RT before dipping them into xylene to prevent the possible loss of tissues.

*2. Prepare a container which is large enough to afford 2 racks. Put the rack at one side of the container and, then, make water flow from the other side. Don't make the tissue side face the water flow directly.

•Quench the peroxidase

- 6. Dip the rack in 3% H₂O₂ for 13 minutes
- 7. Rinse the rack with tap water for 15 minutes

•Retrieve antigen

- 8-1. Put citrate buffer*1 into a pressure cooker and heat it without a lid in the microwave for 5 minutes (Prewarming)
- 8-2. Put the rack into the citrate buffer
- 9. Put a lid on the cooker and heat the cooker in the microwave for 10~15 minutes
- 10. Remove the cooker from the microwave and cool it down at RT for 30 minutes
- 11. Rinse the rack with tap water for 10 minutes
- 12. Dip the slides in PBS*2 buffer (at RT) for 10 minutes

*1. Citrate buffer (0.01M citric acid, pH 6.0) should be stored at 4 °C.

*2. PBS should be stored at 4 °C.

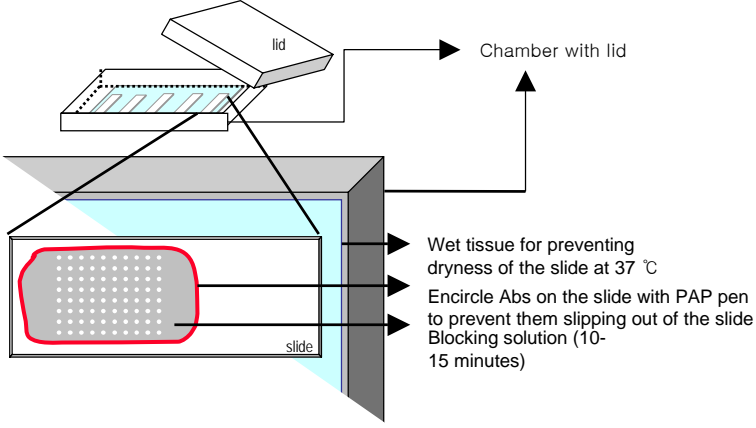
The following process could be different depending on the use of antibody (Ab). Therefore, you need to follow the protocol of a detection kit. Here, the detection kit of Zymed (CEA 18-0057) is used.

•Primary antibody*1

- 13. Adjust Ab with dilution solution (refer to the protocol you use, here, Ab = CEA)
- 13-1. Put a wet tissue on the chamber (it should have a lid)
- 13-2*2. Encircle the tissues with a PAP pen, put the slide on the wet tissue and drop 2-3 drops of blocking solution (10-15 minutes)
- 13-3. Drain the blocking solution out of the slide (not washing)

*1. When you spread solution on the slide, be careful to cover tissues completely.

*2. The slide should not be dried (put the lid on the chamber).



- 14. Ab = CEA, drop Ab solution enough to cover the tissue
- 15. Keep the chamber at 37°C for 1-2 hours*3
- 16. Remove the Ab solution by spreading out PBS onto the slide well and put the slides in the rack
- 17. Dip the rack in PBS*4 buffer (at RT) for 10 minutes

*3. The slide should not be dried (put the lid on the chamber).

*4. PBS should be stored at 4 °C.

•Secondary antibody*

- 18. Put the slides in the chamber again
- 19. Drop 2-3 drops of biotinylated secondary antibody (Zymed) to the slide (5- 10 minutes)
- 20. Repeat steps 16 -18
- 21. Drop 2-3 drops of streptavidin-HRP to each slide (10-15 minutes)
- 22. Repeat steps 16-18

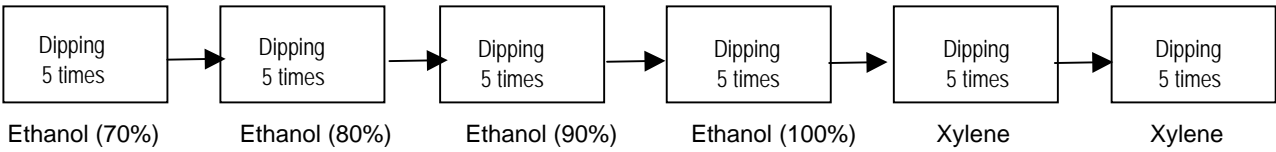
* When you spread solution on the slide, be careful to cover tissues completely.

•Colorimetric detection

- 23. Mix 1 ml DW with reagents (substrate buffer, DAB concentrate, hydrogen peroxide: 1 ml/each)
- 24. Drop the mixture (2-3 drops) onto the slide (after 3–5 minutes, stained tissues can be observed with a microscope)
- 25. Wash the slide with PBS buffer when you believe the tissues are stained well enough for examination

•Counter stain (Harris Hematoxylin)

- 26. Dip the slides in the rack into Hematoxylin for 5–10 minutes
- 27. Rinse the slides with tap water
- 28. Dip the rack into a jar containing 0.1% HCl 3 times and, then, into tap water 3 times
- 29. Dip the rack into 0.1% NH₄OH 3 times and, then, into tap water 3 times
- 30. Dip the rack in ethanol



•Mounting

- 31. Drop 2–3 drops of mountant*¹ onto the slide
- 32*². Put a cover glass onto the slide

*1. eg. ThermoShandon: Synthetic mountant, product # 6769007
 *2. Be careful not to create vapor between the cover glass and the slide