



MASTERTECH BULLETIN

(Revised 04/28/11)

B*5 FIXATIVE WITH ZINC CHLORIDE

A LESS HAZARDOUS ALTERNATIVE TO B*5 FIXATIVE WITH MERCURIC CHLORIDE

B*5 FIXATIVE WITH ZINC, THE PRODUCT AND ITS PURPOSE:

To address cost considerations, the substitution of Zinc Chloride for Mercuric Chloride in B*5 Fixative was first researched more than 50 years ago. Since that time, new safety regulations and the need to eliminate toxic and hazardous chemicals from the laboratory continue to make this formulation especially relevant. Fixation quality with **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** is virtually identical to B*5 Fixative with Mercuric Chloride. Cytomorphology obtained when using **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** is nearly equivalent to traditional B*5 Fixative with Mercuric Chloride, and exceeds the results when using 10% Buffered Formalin. **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** has the added advantage of increasing antigenicity while eliminating the de-mercurizing steps needed when using fixatives containing Mercuric Chloride.

B*5 FIXATIVE WITH ZINC, INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

Prior to use, add 2 ml of Formaldehyde to each 20 ml of **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** and mix thoroughly. To avoid the formation of mercury precipitate, formaldehyde should not be added to traditional B*5 Fixative with Mercuric Chloride more than 4 hours prior to use. With **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** you can add the formaldehyde anytime prior to use, as the zinc will not precipitate. A working solution of **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** can be prepared at your convenience, always ready to use. Place tissue in the working solution for a minimum of 4 hours; 12 to 24 hours provides best results. Remove tissue from **B*5 Fixative with Zinc**, place in the tissue processor, and follow your routine processing schedule. **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** requires no de-mercurizing steps and no changes to routine or special stain procedures are necessary.

B*5 FIXATIVE WITH ZINC, STABILITY:

B*5 Fixative with Zinc may darken slightly over time, which will not affect product performance.

Shelf life of **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** is 18 months.

B*5 FIXATIVE WITH ZINC, PRECAUTIONS:

B*5 Fixative with Zinc is an aqueous, non-flammable tissue fixative. **B*5 Fixative with Zinc** has no shipping restrictions, government regulations, or health regulations. Appropriate laboratory safety wear (goggles, gloves, and lab coat) should be worn and mechanical ventilation must be used after Formaldehyde is added.

B*5 FIXATIVE WITH ZINC, DISPOSAL:

Consult wastewater authorities for applicable regulations concerning proper disposal of **B*5 Fixative with Zinc**.

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