LECTURE ABSTRACT

"Equipment for Setting Up a Plastination Laboratory"

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This presentation is addressed to persons interested in starting plastination at their department. Proper planning will help starting successfully. Besides the overall space large enough for establishing a small, medium, or large plastination lab, you will need suitable auxiliaries and devices. Here, the respective equipment for individual plastination work steps is described: fixation, dehydration/dewatering, forced impregnation, and curing. While for some items improvisation is possible, for the core devices like the vacuum pump one should take no unnecessary risk by utilising just any available pump. Normally, the freezers are the largest pieces of equipment and need adequate floor space. On the other hand, there are small auxiliaries like the needle valve which does not take a lot of money and does not need much space but nevertheless is of great importance for the impregnation process. Gas curing is very specific for silicone plastination. The curing agent is applied to the impregnated specimens in the gaseous state. Therefore, a special closed container is needed to create an atmosphere with high curing agent concentration inside. Besides the actual laboratory space, a storage room for solvent and other chemicals has to be provided, too.

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