



ORAL PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

4.1. "Use of Glycerin for Preservation of Teaching Specimens". "Uso de la Glicerina para la Conservación de Especímenes Docentes".

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Introduction: Specimens are very important for teaching and learning process of anatomy. Traditionally, formalin was used for preservation of carcasses and organs. But it caused burning sensation in the eyes, nose and throat of the handler. It also changed the color and caused hardening of specimens. Therefore an attempt has been made to spare formalin and, instead use the glycerin for the preservation of specimen which is safe for the handler and specimen both.

Material and Method: Five samples of buffalo brain were collected from local abattoir, and fixed in 10% formalin for two months. After complete fixation, meninges were removed meticulously and overnight washing in slow running tap water was given to remove excess formalin. The specimens were then passed through ascending grades of acetone (99.0%) for complete dehydration. Then these specimens were transferred to the three changes of glycerin (99.5%). After complete impregnation with glycerin, the specimens were put into a sieve for drainage of excess glycerin. **Results:** No hardness or shrinkage in the specimen was observed after dehydration however its color was only slightly changed from the natural here. The specimen was slightly sticky also, to touch when fresh, but it dried (normal) with passage of some time.

Conclusions: Thus the clean, odorless, non-toxic, portable and durable teaching specimens can be prepared by using glycerin instead of formalin, which gives unpleasant feeling, causes irritation to mucosa of eyes, nose and throat and hardening of skin of handlers. The specimens preserved in formalin are difficult to transport from one place to another particularly due to its unpleasant, irritant odor.

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