

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGY
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

Cucumber Preparation for Tissue Orientation

SPECIMEN(S): Endoscopic and Conjunctival Biopsy Orientation

MATERIALS:

- Cucumber
- Potato Peeler
- 95% Ethanol
- Sealed container/jar

PROCEDURE:

PREP

- Select a firm cucumber
- Peel and manually slice as thin as possible using a potato peeler
 - Avoid seed areas
- Place cut cucumber in a container filled with 95% Ethanol
- Change 95% Ethanol daily for 3 days
- Store in last change of 95% Ethanol in refrigerator

SPECIMEN ORIENTATION

- Blot cucumber section with blotting paper before use
- Place cut surface of biopsy tissue down on “cucumber paper” leaving villi pointed upward
- Place the tissue/“cucumber paper” in cassette and into a jar of formalin.
 - If cassettes are not available, place tissue/cucumber paper into individual jars of formalin.

REFERENCES:

Swan RW, Davis HJ: The biopsy cucumber unit. *Obstet Gynecol* 36:803-805, 1970
Erie JC, Campbell RJ, Collyer SG: Dehydrated Cucumber Slice as a Mount for Conjunctival Biopsy. *American Journal of Ophthalmology*.

Procedure written/updated by: _____ Date: _____

Laboratory Manager or Designee: _____ Date: _____

Laboratory Director or Designee: _____ Date: _____

Date:

Supersedes:

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