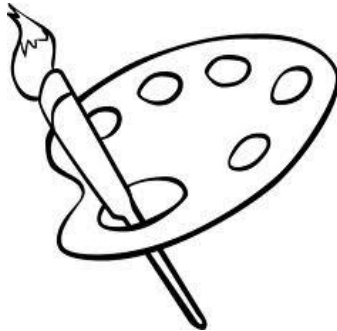


2013 ASMH Beginner Cryostat Workshop

Develop the Mohs Artist Within



Specimen ink orientation:

- Apply margin marking ink at designated areas of the specimen to correlate with patient map (if dividing specimen into pieces, apply ink after sectioning of tissue - unless otherwise indicated).

Score and relax specimen:

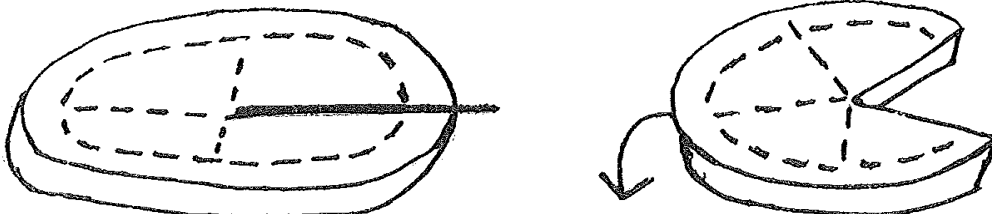
- Apply relax cuts and scores to allow epidermal edges to lay flat against surface

Different processing styles:

Pack-man:

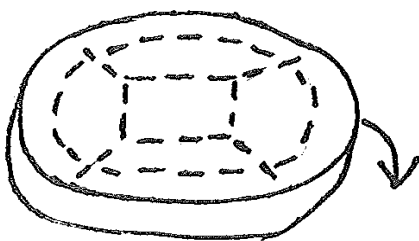
Score (lightly cut into epidermis to transition epidermis) all the way around the epidermis edge, allowing enough epidermis margin for sectioning. Using an 11 blade, or other point tipped scalpel blade, implement a relax cut to create pac-man effect.

(after relax cut, specimen will open up like a pac-man)



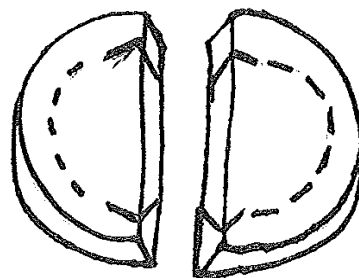
Disc:

Score (lightly cut into epidermis to transition epidermis) all the way around the epidermis edge, allowing enough epidermis margin for sectioning. Other scores may be required. (See image)



Bisected:

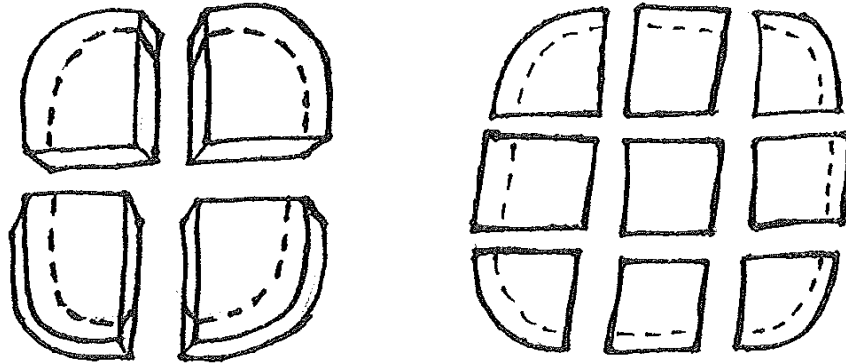
Bisect specimen. If the specimen has round tips, relax cuts will aid in getting these tips down. Score (lightly cut into epidermis from one relax cut to the other to transition epidermis).



Multisectioned:

Score (lightly cut into epidermis to transition epidermis) all the way around the epidermis edge, allowing enough epidermis margin for sectioning. Using an 11 blade, or other point tipped scalpel blade, implement a relax cuts as needed.

**When processing a "Multi-sectioned" specimen that has pieces in the center of the tissue (not the surrounding edge), the center pieces are to show representative sections of the base only (no epidermis).



Embedding: One of the key components to remember when embedding is that your primary goal is to show the physician the epidermis margin, and the deep margin of the specimen that last came in contact with the patient.

There are a variety of embedding techniques. The most commonly used are the reverse slide mount method, embedding wells, and the cryo-embedder system. These forms of embedding allow the technician more control in achieving a complete representative section of epidermis and deep margin of the specimen.

If using the reverse slide mount method, you must apply a thin layer of embedding medium to the slide prior to embedding to prevent loss of tissue.

Embed tissue for proper orientation to insure complete section on first cut

- Freeze tissue, placing all epidermal edges and deep margin on same plane
- Place embedding medium around tissue (freeze spray will aid in rapid chilling of embedding medium to prevent lifting of epidermis)
- Place embedding medium on the embedding disc in cryostat.
- Invert specimen on to specimen disc and apply heat extractor to make final block
- Place specimen block in holder of cryostat to begin facing tissue.
- Ensure proper angle of blade and begin trimming into block.
- Once embedding medium has been adequately trimmed, begin applying sections to your slide (the first section is of utmost importance do to the fact it is your true margin).

Proper placing of sections on slide

- If applying two or more sections to a slide, it is common to begin in the upper corner, placing two or three sections diagonally across the slide. If applying only one section per slide, place the section in the center or at end of slide for ease in reading for the surgeon.
- ***Remove excess embedding medium between sections to prevent overlapping of tissue onto embedding medium from previous section. This will prevent loss of tissue during staining.