Using Spatial Awareness to set Patterns During Mohs Tissue Processing

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Target Audience - Novice
Spatial Awareness

The awareness of the body in space.

Knowledge of Objects in relation to Space.

Organized awareness of objects in the space around us.

Understanding objects when they change
Artistic creativity is linked to Spatial Awareness.

Develop Patterns
Keep it Simple
Use Common Sense
Eliminate Unnecessary steps that foster confusion and inhibit tracking (ie., multiple color-coding), disorganization
Start with yourself
Heads UP
Where am I?

Anatomical Position
HANDS DOWN

Anatomic position
Developing Spacial Awareness - Using Colors

Look up  SKY BLUE  EARTH RED
Different Colors- Images

DYES

Sunny Sky--------------Green Grass
Using Objects - Clock

12 is UP
PENNY

Heads

Rim

Tails

Flip
Objective
PRESERVE ORIENTATION
How?
Be Consistent
Tumor

Heads Up 12 o’clock
Q. where is the undersurface?  A. Flip side (tails)
Q. where is the margin?    A. rim (epi)
Visualization - Photographic Memory - Flip tissue over

Surface - smooth firm skin pattern
Undersurface - fleshy with various structures
Visual recall

Hone in on your photographic memory over time

Built-in skill that histotechns have to recall visual information

The angel on your shoulder

Says something doesn’t look or feel right

Customized your preferences
IMPRINTING

USING A PAPER TOWEL-Mirror Image
Tissue Orientation imprint on paper towel

Keeping a record of Dye Placement and Slice direction
Color code-dyes

Sky-blue
Earth-red

Superior- Supreme Blue Sky
Inferior- Lowly Earth
DYES - Mapping Codes

BLUE

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Dotted sky

RED

|   |

Solid Ground
Superior to Inferior  
Dye Direction  L>>>R  

Labeling top to bottom  
Horizontal cut

1

2
Labeling Left to Right and clockwise- Using Direction

object
Dye Color match

Would you do this?
Multiple sections

OPPOSITES MATCH

Clockwise direction
Sequence match
6+ sections- Match Dyes on Adjoining pieces

Connect dyes

color match pairs
Are you aware?
CONNECT THE DYES

Dyeing Sides without epi

Using 2 Dyes

Back to the wall-right angle to sky-Never naked
Ascending Order - Climb a ladder
Positioning tissue on slide in sequence

Starting from label down or bottom up

Make a list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Doe</th>
<th>Jane Doe</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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Climb steps

L>>>>>>R

X
MICROSCOPE - THE REVERSE IMAGE
Why dyes are important

Depending on the microscope used, light microscopes and compound lens microscopes cause light to bend before reaching the lens and images may be reversed or inverted. Upside down and backwards.
YOURSELF LOOKING IN THE MIRROR

Which eye is black?
• Objects seen under the microscope appear reversed/inverted
• Ignore this
• It is only important if you have to dissect tissue under the microscope
• As long as your dyes match your mapping, this is all the orientation you need to rely on.
FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD
Getting Lost - Sometimes we can lose Direction
Tools - Help is available - GPS Camera
Take a Photo
Detached disconnected piece
Bring your camera to the microscope screening
Shop tip - RELEVANCE

When using Spatial Awareness to Develop patterns, present as much info as needed and as little as required.
REFERENCES

Images

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