



Jun 12, 2023

Sectioning of Mouse Brain by Cryostat

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl8prw7g2w/v1

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DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl8prw7g2w/v1>

Protocol Citation: Maryana Nissan 2023. Sectioning of Mouse Brain by Cryostat. **protocols.io**
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl8prw7g2w/v1>

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: June 12, 2023

Last Modified: May 31, 2024

Protocol Integer ID: 83276

Keywords: ASAPCRN, mouse brain by cryostat, slice mouse brain sections for immunohistochemistry, slice mouse brain section, cryostat, immunohistochemistry, mouse brain, mouse

Funders Acknowledgements:

Aligning Science Across Parkinson's [ASAP-020600] through the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF)
Grant ID: ASAP-020600

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Abstract

This protocol describes how to use the cryostat to prepare and slice mouse brain sections for Immunohistochemistry

Troubleshooting

Preparation Methods

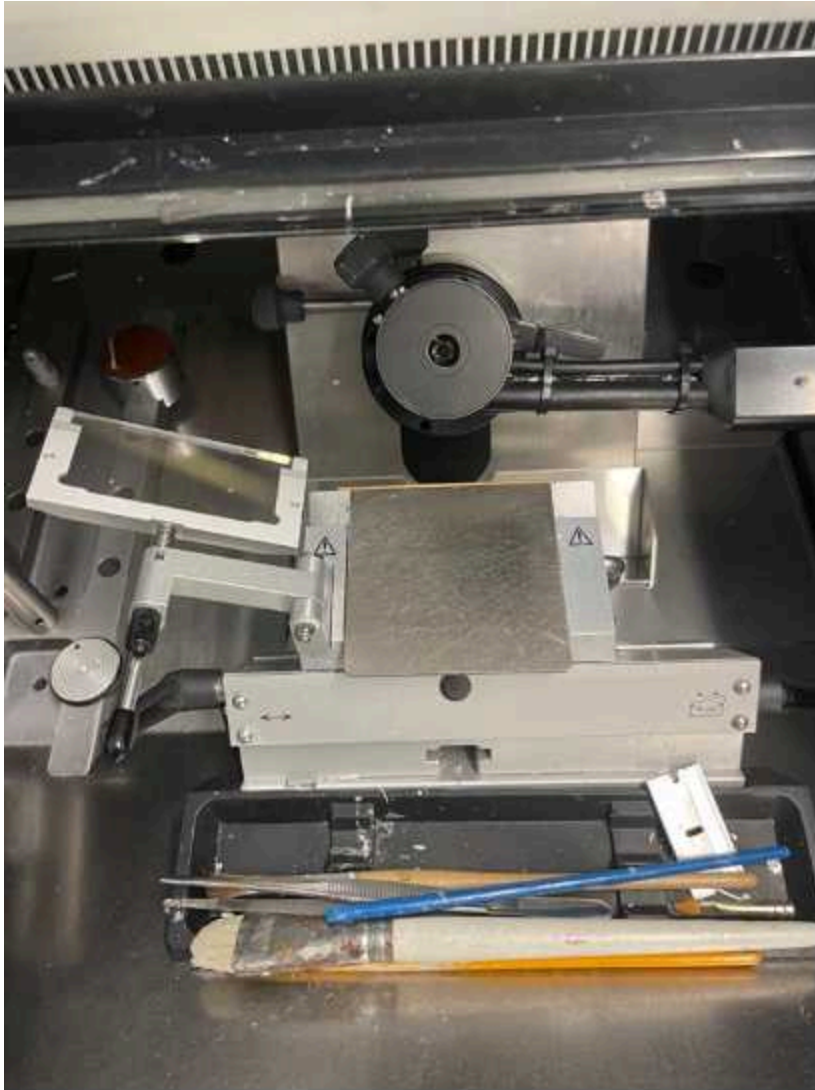
- 1 After removing the brain from -80C storage, leave the brain on dry ice for 15-20 minutes. This will ensure there is not a big temperature difference when it is placed in the chamber of the cryostat. The cryostat my lab uses is Leica, model CM-30505.
- 2 Label microscope slides. For embryonic brains, you will need between 8 to 10 slides. For early post-natal brains, you will need up to 10 slides and for adult brains, you will need 13-15 slides.
- 3 Set the chamber temperature (CT) and object temperature (OT). My lab often works with -24C for CT and -21C for OT. The temperature will take a few minutes to set.



CT and OT Screen



- 4 When the temperatures of the cryostat are set, begin mounting the brain.
- 5 Place a disposable base mold [Fisher brand, CAT# 22-038-272] on the stand.
- 6 Fill half of the plate with embedding media
- 7 Gently transfer brain from dry ice to the center of the plate, securing it. Make sure to place it in the orientation you'd like.
- 8 Fill up the rest of the plate with embedding media. Note, when the embedding media freezes, it will turn white. This will make it difficult to tell the orientation of the brain. To prevent this, label the orientation of the brain on the plate.
- 9 Place the plate under the cold press and press it to cool. Leave the press on the plate for 2-5 minutes.
- 10 Lift the cold press, releasing the plate
- 11 Remove the block from the plate. Now, you will have a frozen block.
- 12 Place the block on the concentric circle, and secure it with more embedding media
- 13 Attach the concentric circle to the stand, and secure it by tightening the screw above it



Setup inside of cryostat

- 14 Prior to slicing, double check the settings. Make sure you have the correct thickness

Slicing Methods

- 15 The cryostat can be run at an automated setting to section off the extra embedding media covering the brain. To do this, adjust the speed and thickness. Double press "RUN STOP" and "RUN ENABLE" to begin automated setting



Settings of Cryostat

- 16 Adjust the settings of the stand as needed to ensure that the blade is slicing full sections of the brain
- 17 Let the cryostat section the brain and occasionally stop it by double pressing "RUN STOP" and "RUN ENABLE" to brush off the embedding media on the stand
- 18 Stop the automated settings when you notice the cryostat has reached the brain. Begin manually collecting the brain sections.
- 19 Carefully mount each brain section onto a microscope slide by slightly tilting the slide over the brain section and pressing down. Be careful to not break the section, press down gently to lift the brain section.



- 20 Continue collecting sections until you have sliced the entirety of the brain
- 21 Store slides at -80C