



Confocal Microscopy Core Facility

Brigham and Women's Hospital



Immunochemistry Aqueous Mounting Media aka "Vinol"

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1. Mix 5 g of Fisher "cold soluble" polyvinyl alcohol, P-8136-250G in 20 ml of PBS (phosphate buffered saline, see note below concerning pH), in a 50 mL tube. Mix by sonication, followed by tumbling overnight at room temperature.
2. Add 5 ml (12.7 gm) of absolute glycerol and 0.2 ml of 20% sodium azide. Continue tumbling for 16 h at room temperature.
3. Remove undissolved material by centrifugation at 20,000 g for 20 minutes.
4. Decant the syrupy supernatant and store in airtight vials at -20C. This should be stable for at least 6 months. Aliquots may also be frozen and will last indefinitely.

Final proportions are:

~15% wt/v PVA (limited by solubility, pretty much a saturated solution)

33% v/v glycerol

0.1% azide

NOTE: FITC fluorescence is optimized at Ph 8.5. Some people prefer to use TRIS based buffers at this pH instead of PBS.

To Use: place a small drop of the vinol solution on a cleaned slide. Invert cover slip onto the slide (cell side down), press gently. Blot off excess with kimwipes, being careful to press down only and not slide the coverslip while pressing. Rinse very briefly with distilled water from a squirt bottle, and immediately reblot. Slides may be viewed immediately but should be allowed to set overnight (protected from light) at room temperature before viewing with oil immersion. set overnight at room temperature. Store slides as appropriate (e.g., fluorescent slides store in dark); morphology is preserved indefinitely.



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