

Gram differentiator / decolouriser is used in the Gram technique for staining bacteria. It is used to decolourise the tissue or smear on the slide after the primary Gram stain Crystal violet staining to clear the background and to allow the background counterstain to be applied.

Specification:

Contains ketone/ alcohol mixture. Ready to use.

General Method (single slide) :

- 1 Prepare heat fixed smear by passing the slide, smear side up, 5-6 times through a Bunsen flame.
- 2 Flood the slide with crystal violet oxalate solution for 1 minute.
- 3 Wash off excess dye by swirling in a beaker of tapwater for 4-5 seconds.
- 4 Flood slide with iodine solution, drain off the excess, again flood the slide with iodine solution for 1 minute.
- 5 Wash the slide in a beaker of tapwater, overwashing is difficult at this stage.
- 6 Decolourise by running the differentiator solution over the surface of the slide for 5-20 seconds for thin smears and 20-60 seconds for thick smears, until crystal violet no longer bleeds from the smear.
- 7 Wash in tap water to stop the action of the differentiator.
- 8 Flood slide with counterstain for 1 minute.
- 9 Wash very lightly in a beaker of water to remove excess counterstain. Excessive washing at this stage will remove the counterstain from Gram negative organisms.
- 10 Blot dry and examine.

The method given in this leaflet is designed as a general guide only.

Storage:

Store reagent at cool room temperature in darkened cupboard away from sources of ignition.

Health & Safety:

Contains Ketones and alcohols which are HIGHLY FLAMABLE and HARMFUL by inhalation and ingestion. Do not consume. Avoid sources of ignition when using. If ingested seek immediate medical attention on what treatment is appropriate. Wash with soap and water in contact with skin. If in contact with eyes bathe eyes with eye-bath for 5 minutes. Irritant to eyes. Seek medical attention if soreness persists. Wear suitable eye, face and body protection when using. Use in a suitably ventilated area or under a ventilated hood.. This product is for "In-vitro diagnostic use only". Standard precautions for handling laboratory reagents should be followed when using this product. R: 11-22-23-25-40 S: 7-16-24-25-26-28-45

Waste disposal :

This product is flammable . It is volatile in air so spillage vapours may present and explosion hazard in small spaces if mixed with air. Mop up immediately with suitable absorbent granules or paper and remove to outside area for proper disposal (can be evaporated to atmosphere). Clean the spillage area with detergent & water and run the waste to sewer drains.

Unused reagent can be disposed of by disposal to public sewer dilution greatly with tapwater. If quantities larger than 250ml are involved the waste should be collected in a suitable container for disposal by a licensed waste disposal contractor.

Packaging should be rinsed with water and recycled as polyethylene, paper & cardboard.

Unsatisfactory performance

As part of our duty to monitor product performance and our policy of continual improvement. Please report to us any unsatisfactory performance you may experience with this product. If any reagent degrades before expiry of shelf life we will replace that reagent free of charge. GCC Diagnostics guarantees the quality of this product, the user should however determine the suitability of this product for their intended use.

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