

Connective Tissue Fibers with their Stains

Ву

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- Connective tissue is one of the major types of tissue that connects different parts of tissue and supports the body parts.
 The fibrous part of C.T includes:
 Collagen fibers
 Reticular fibers
 - **Elastic fibers**
 - **Basement membrane**



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Collagen fibers : composed of the protein collagen and provide the greatest strength of the 3 fiber types. Found in ligaments, tendons, cartilage and bone.

Elastic Fibers: composed of the protein elastin and provide the greatest flexibility among the fiber types. Found in skin and walls of blood vessels. Reticular fibers : composed of the protein collagen. They form a delicate network for many soft organs and a network around nerve fibers, fat cells, LNs, skeletal and smooth ms fibers.

Basement membrane: C.T elements that separate the epithelial and endothelial cells from the underlying connective tissue.

Staining methods for demonstrating fibers of C.T

Demonstration of Collagen fibers

Collagen fibers demonstrated by:

- ≻ H & E
- Trichrome Stains
- PTAH (phosphotungstic acidhematoxylin)

1- Hematoxylin & Eosin

Collagen fibers

1- Hematoxylin & Eosin



Demonstration of Collagen fibers

- **Collagen fibers demonstrated by:**
 - ≻ H & E
 - > Trichrome Stains
 - > PTAH



2- Trichrome Stains

- Trichrome stains: 3 dyes used to distinguish collagen from muscle and aid in the diagnosis of fibrotic changes, neuromuscular diseases and tumors of muscle origin.
- ≻ <u>Result:</u>
 - 1. Collagen: blue
 - 2. Muscle, Cytoplasm& RBCs: Red
 - 3. Nucleus: blue



2- Trichrome Stains

The most common techniques for trichrome staining



The Masson utilizes all of the mordanting and staining steps individually, where as the one-step incorporates all of the staining steps in one staining solution except the mordant and nuclear stain.

Masson's Trichrome Stains

Masson's Trichrome Stains

Masson's Trichrome Stains

Gomori's One-Step Trichrome Stains



Gomori's One-Step Trichrome Stains



Demonstration of Collagen fibers

- **Collagen fibers demonstrated by:**
 - ≻ H & E
 - > Trichrome Stains
 - > PTAH



3- phosphotungstic acid-hematoxylin (PTAH)

- PTAH is preferred for demonstrating cross-striations of skeletal muscle.
- Muscle, cytoplasm, fibrin: Various shades of blue
 Nuclei: Various shades of blue
 Collagen Red-brown



3- phosphotungstic acid-hematoxylin (PTAH)



3- phosphotungstic acid-hematoxylin (PTAH)



Dense Irregular Connective Tissue

fibroblast nuclei

Demonstration of reticular fibers

- Not visualized by H&E.
- commonly demonstrated by the use of stains involving silver solutions.
 - Impregnation of silver ions to the fibers and subsequent reduction of those silver ions to their visible metallic form (argyrophilic).











Demonstration of Elastic fibers

≻H&E

- The Verhoeff-Van Gieson (VVG) stain.
 Orcein technique.
- Aldehyde fuchsin method.



1- Hematoxylin & Eosin



H&E stain: collagen stains orange/pink; elastic fibers stain glassy red (generally only visible if in HIGH abundance)

2-The Verhoeff-Van Gieson (VVG) stain

1- Verhoeff-Van Gieson stain



Elastic fibres (blue/black), collagen (red/pink) Muscle and other tissues appear yellow. (Normal human lung).

1- Verhoeff-Van Gieson stain



1- Verhoeff-Van Gieson stain





3- Orcein technique



2- Orcein technique



4- Aldehyde fuchsin method

4- Aldehyde fuchsin method





H&E stain: collagen stains orange/pink; elastic fibers stain glassy red (generally only visible if in HIGH abundance)



Orcein technique.



Aldehyde fuchsin method.

Demonstration of basement membrane

- ≻H&E
- **Silver** stain
- PAS technique

1- Hematoxylin & Eosin





Demonstration of basement membrane

BM may also be demonstrated using the Periodic Acid-Schiff (PAS) technique.





Demonstration of basement membrane

BM are commonly demonstrated with a silver stain



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