Xenium In Situ for FFPE – Tissue Preparation Guide

Introduction

Xenium In Situ for FFPE is designed to measure mRNA in tissue sections derived from formalin fixed & paraffin embedded (FFPE) tissue samples and requires a Xenium slide with intact tissue sections as input. Proper tissue handling, storage, and preparation techniques preserve the morphological quality of tissue sections and integrity of mRNA transcripts.

This Tissue Preparation Guide provides guidance on:

- Best practices for handling tissue samples and Xenium slides before and after sectioning.
- Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) staining to check tissue quality.
- Sectioning and tissue placement practice.
- Sectioning of tissue samples and placement of sections on Xenium slides.

Additional Guidance

Refer to the 10x Genomics Support website for additional resources. Slides prepared using this guide can be used with:

- Xenium In Situ for FFPE - Deparaffinization & Decrosslinking Demonstrated Protocol (CG000580)
- Xenium In Situ Gene Expression - Probe Hybridization, Ligation, & Amplification User Guide (CG000582)

Contents

Xenium In Situ Gene Expression Reagent Kits

Refer to SDS for handling and disposal information

Xenium Slides & Sample Prep Reagents (2 slides, 2 rxns) PN-1000460

Xenium Slides & Sample Prep Reagents
(2 slides, 2 rxns), PN-1000460
Store at –20°C

	#	PN
Xenium Probe Hybridization Buffer	1	2000390
Xenium Post Hybridization Wash Buffer	1	2000395
Xenium Ligation Buffer	1	2000391
Xenium Ligation Enzyme A	1	2000397
Xenium Ligation Enzyme B	1	2000398
Xenium Amplification Mix	1	2000392
Xenium Amplification Enzyme	1	2000399
Reducing Agent B	1	2000087
Xenium Autofluorescence Mix	1	2000753
Xenium FFPE Tissue Enhancer	1	2000798
Xenium Nuclei Staining Buffer	1	2000762
Perm Enzyme B	1	3000553
Xenium Slides (2 pack)	1	3000941

10x GENOMICS

Only the Xenium Slides (2 pack) are needed for this workflow.

Xenium Slides Kit (2 slides) PN-1000465

Xenium Slides Kit
(2 slides), PN-1000465
Store at –20°C

	#	PN
Xenium Slides (2 pack)	1	3000941

10x GENOMICS

Purchase the Xenium Slides Kit (2 slides) (PN-1000465) for additional slides as needed.

Recommended Thermal Cyclers

Supplier	Description	Part Number
Bio-Rad	C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler with 96-Deep Well Reaction Module (discontinued)	1851197
Analytik Jena	Biometra TAdvanced 96 SG with 96-well block (silver, 0.2 mL) and gradient function	846-x-070-241 (*where x=2 for 230 V; 4 for 115 V; 5 for 100 V, 50-60 Hz)*
VWR	Gradient thermal cycler, XT^{96} Gradient, with 96-well gradient block and standard lid	76452-153
Marshall Scientific	MJ Research PTC-200 Thermal Cycler	05434-05

Specific Reagents & Consumables

The listed items have been tested by 10x Genomics and perform optimally with the assay. **Substituting materials may adversely affect system performance.** For items with multiple options listed, choose option based on availability and preference. Refer to the manufacturer's website for regional part numbers.

	For FFPE Tissue Sectioning & Section Placement			
	Item	**Alternatives/Options**	**Vendor**	**Part Number**
☐	Microtome	Epredia HM 355S Automatic Microtome *Or any standard histology grade microtome*	Fisher Scientific	23-900-672
☐	Microtome blade	Epredia MX35 Premier Disposable Microtome Blades, Low Profile	Fisher Scientific	3052835
☐	Cool-Cut *(optional)*	Thermo Scientific Cool-Cut *(optional)*	Fisher Scientific	77-112-0
☐	Section transfer system (STS) *(optional)*	Thermo Scientific Section Transfer System (STS), *Optional - If using Section Transfer System*	Fisher Scientific	771200
☐	Probes	Fisherbrand Fine Precision Probe	Fisher Scientific	12-000-153
☐	Forceps	Fisherbrand Curved Medium Point General Purpose Forceps	Fisher Scientific	16-100-110
☐	Blank Slides *(optional, for sectioning practice)*	Superfrost Plus Microscope Slides	Fisher Scientific	12-550-15
☐	Water bath	Tissue Floating Bath, Lighted *Or any equivalent water bath*	Geyer	194242
		Epredia Digital Round Tissue Section Water Bath *if using optional Section Transfer System*	Fisher Scientific	A84600061
☐	Section dryer oven *(optional, but recommended)*	Epredia High Capacity Section Dryer	Fisher Scientific	A84600051
☐	Brushes	Camel Hair Brushes *or any equivalent paintbrush*	Ted Pella	11859
☐	Fan *(optional, but recommended)*	Personal Rechargeable Fan *or any equivalent fan*	Holmes	085-01-0117
☐	Cutting Mat	WellTech Cutting Mat	WellTech Precision Lab	N/A
☐	Wax Trimmer *(optional)*	Electronic Microscopy Sciences Paraffin Block Trimmer Wax Trimmer, 115 VAC	Fisher Scientific	NC0310844
☐	Marker *(optional)*	StatMark Pen	EMS	72109-12
	Additional Materials			
☐	Razor blades		-	-
☐	Ultrapure/Milli-Q Water for Water Bath, *from Milli-Q Integral Ultrapure Water System or equivalent*		-	-

For Deparaffinization				
Item		**Description**	**Vendor**	**Part Number**
☐	Xylene	Xylene, Reagent Grade	Millipore Sigma	214736
	or	Xylene, Histological Grade	Millipore Sigma	534056
	Neo-clear	Neo-clear Xylene Alternative Substitute	Millipore Sigma	1098435000
☐	Ethanol	Ethyl Alcohol, 200 Proof, anhydrous	Millipore Sigma	E7023
		Ethanol absolute ≥99.5%, TechniSolv, pure (Europe)	VWR	83813.360DP
☐	Nuclease-free Water	Nuclease-free Water (not DEPC-treated)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	AM9932/ AM9937
☐	Staining jar/dishes	Coplin Jar	VWR	100500-232
		Staining Dishes	VWR	25608-906
☐	Section dryer oven	Epredia High Capacity Section Dryer *(Or equivalent. Thermal cycler may also be used for section drying).*	Fisher Scientific	A84600051
	Additional Materials			
☐	Water bath or Thermomixer with 2 ml adapter			
☐	Thermal Cycler *(see Recommended Thermal Cyclers)*			
☐	Slide drying rack			
☐	Fume Hood			
☐	Vortex			

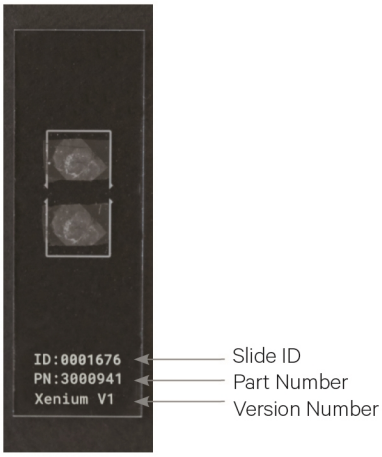
For H&E Staining				
Item		**Description**	**Vendor**	**Part Number**
☐	Hematoxylin	Hematoxylin Solution, Mayer's	Sigma Aldrich	MHS16
☐	Eosin	Eosin Y Solution, Alcoholic	Leica	3801615
☐	Bluing Reagent	Bluing Solution	Dako	CS702
☐	Mounting Media	Surgipath SUB-X Mounting Media (discontinued)	Leica	3801741
		Cytoseal Mountant; 60, 280 and XYL	Fisher Scientific	22-050-262
☐	Ethanol	Ethyl Alcohol, 200 Proof, anhydrous	Millipore Sigma	E7023
		Ethanol absolute ≥99.5%, TechniSolv, pure (Europe)	VWR	83813.360DP
☐	Xylene	Xylene, Reagent Grade	Millipore Sigma	214736
		Xylene, Histological Grade	Millipore Sigma	534056

For H&E Staining				
☐	Forceps	Tweezers, 4' Water Handling	Excelta Corp	491P-SA-PI
☐	Filter Paper	Fisherbrand Qualitative Grade Plain Filter Paper Circles	Fisher Scientific	09-795-H
☐	Coverslips	Fisherbrand Cover Glasses: Rectangles	Fisher Scientific	12-544-EP
		Cover Glasses, Rectangles	VWR	16004-322
	Additional Materials			
☐	Vortex			
☐	Staining jar/dishes			
☐	Wide-bore pipette tips			
☐	Ultrapure/Milli-Q Water *from Milli-Q Integral Ultrapure Water System or equivalent*			

Xenium Slide

- Xenium slides include an imageable area outlined by a white line measuring 12 mm x 24 mm, with an available sample positioning area measuring 235 mm^2 (10.45 mm x 22.45 mm). The available sample positioning area will be referred to as the Sample Area for the remainder of this document.
- The Sample Area is surrounded by fiducials. Tissue sections are placed within the Sample Area without obstructing the fiducials. The imageable area includes the area within the fiducial frame + Sample Area.
- The Sample Area can accommodate as many tissue sections as can fit within the space. Ensure tissue sections (including wax) DO NOT overlap.
- An etched label denoting the Slide ID, Part, and Version numbers is located at the bottom of the slide. Tissue sections should be placed on labeled-side of slide.

Xenium Slide with Tissue Sections



Tips & Best Practices

Icons

Tips & Best Practices section includes additional guidance

Signifies critical step requiring accurate execution

Troubleshooting section includes additional guidance

Sample Preparation

- Store FFPE tissue blocks at 4°C.

Sectioning Speed

- Sectioning speed is dependent and impacted by the desired thickness of the sections and the condition of the tissue. Harder and thicker sections require slow sectioning speed.
- Faster sectioning speed may lead to cracks or tears in the sections or damage to the tissue block.

Section Thickness

- Recommended section thickness is 5 µm.

Water Bath Temperature & Section Floating Time

- Optimal water bath temperature and section floating time are critical for tissue section expansion. 42ºC is the recommended water bath temperature for most tissues. However, water bath temperature may need optimization based on the tissue type. Optimization should occur before utilization of a Xenium slide.
- Determine optimal water bath conditions before tissue placement on the Xenium slides by practicing section placement on a blank slide.

- If the tissue is taking too long to expand, turn the water bath temperature up by 1 or 2 degrees and let the section float for longer.
- If the tissue is expanding too quickly and dissociating, turn the water bath temperature down by 1 or 2 degrees and shorten the floating time.

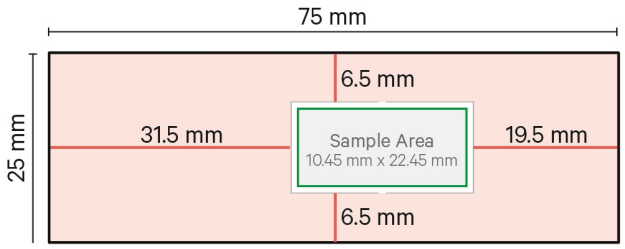
Tissue Section Quality Control

- After section placement on blank slides, sections should be hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stained to examine tissue morphology.
- Use information from H&E staining to inform possible scoring to select the area of interest.

Xenium Slide Template

- Use the following diagram to verify that freshly placed tissue sections are compatible with the Xenium Slide. Reference the image below to draw the sample area on the back of blank slides.

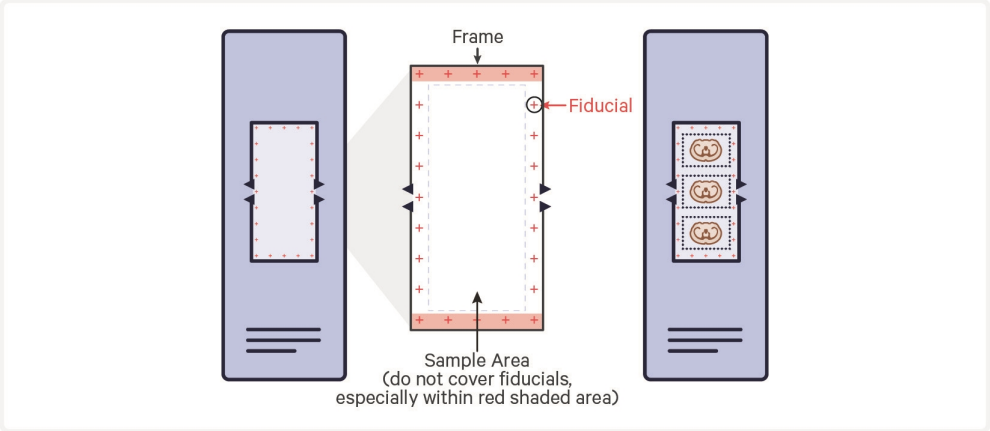
Images are to scale if scaling settings are not modified (select "actual size" or "100%" to print to scale).



- Practice correct section placement within the representative frames using non-experimental blocks.

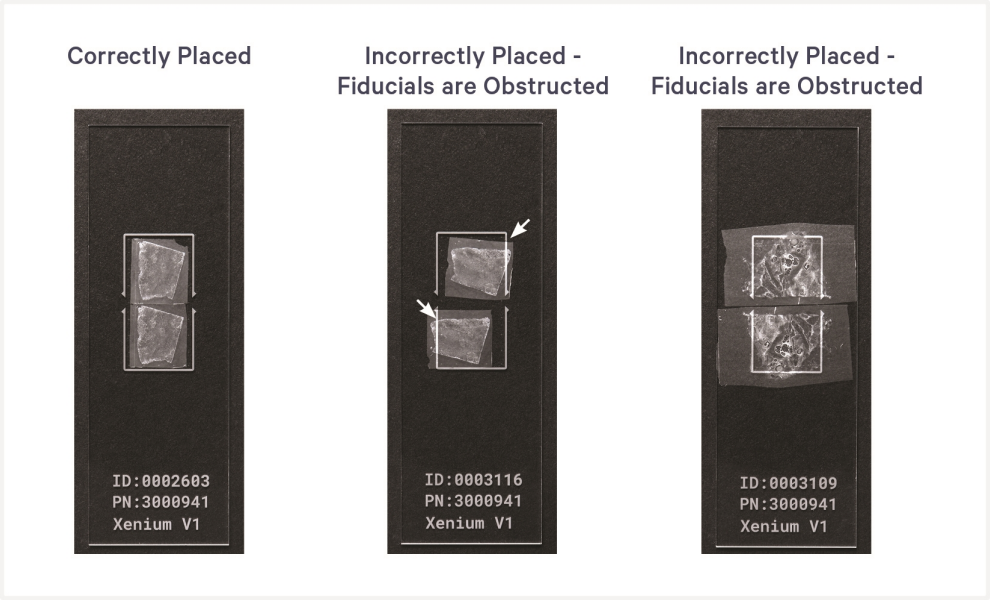
Section Placement on Xenium Slides

- Discard the first couple of sections after facing the block before placing sections on Xenium slides.
- Place the tissue section within the Sample Area on Xenium slides. Avoid covering the fiducials with tissue.



- To assist in section placement, trace the Sample Area on the back of the slide using the provided template in Xenium Slide Template on the previous page.
- The section on the slides should be uniform without any cracks, tears, or folds.
- The wax surrounding each tissue section should not overlap other sections.

- Once sections are placed on Xenium slides, they cannot be repositioned as this would compromise slide integrity and assay performance.



Optional Tissue Trimming & Scoring

FFPE tissue blocks can be trimmed or scored to fit multiple sections onto the Sample Area.

- **FFPE Tissue Block is smaller than Sample Area:** Paraffin around the embedded tissue in the FFPE tissue block should not be trimmed, and the section will fit the Sample Area.
- **FFPE Tissue Block is larger than Sample Area, but tissue is smaller than Sample Area:** Paraffin around the embedded tissue in the FFPE tissue block can be trimmed for the section to fit the Sample Area.
- **FFPE Tissue Block & Tissue are larger than Sample Area:** Paraffin around the embedded tissue in the FFPE tissue block can be trimmed, and the actual tissue can be scored to generate smaller sections to fit the Sample Area.
- Use a razor blade for trimming and scoring the tissue Block. See Optional Trimming/Scoring the Block on page 46 for details.
- Alternatively, tissue sections may be sectioned and trimmed on a cutting mat. See Alternative Trimming or Scoring of FFPE Block & Tissue on page 49 for details.
- Once the tissue has been trimmed and scored, use extra care during sectioning and section handling.

Tissue Detachment on Xenium Slides

- Monitor section adhesion on Xenium slides throughout the workflow.
- Tissue detachment during the workflow can negatively impact performance. If observed, contact support@10xgenomics.com.
- For more information, refer to Troubleshooting.

Handling Xenium Slides

Handling Xenium Slides Without Tissue Sections

- Store packaged slides at **-20°C**.
- DO NOT touch the surface of the slide.
- Prior to sectioning, slides should be equilibrated to room temperature for **30 min**.
- Once opened, the slide can remain at room temperature in a desiccator for up to one week.

Handling Xenium Slides Containing Tissue Sections

- Slides containing tissue sections that have been incubated at **42ºC** for **3h** and dried overnight at room temperature in a desiccator can be stored for up to **4 weeks** at room temperature in a desiccator.

Xenium Slide Incubation

- After sectioning, slides with tissue sections must be dried with either a section dryer oven (preferred) or a thermocycler.

Incubation using a Section Dryer Oven

a. Ensure slides have been dried with a fan at room temperature to remove water trapped on top of and under the section prior to using the dryer oven.

b. Close the lid when incubating the slide in the oven.

Incubation on a Thermal Cycler

a. Position a Xenium Thermocycler Adapter on a thermal cycler that is set at the incubation temperature.

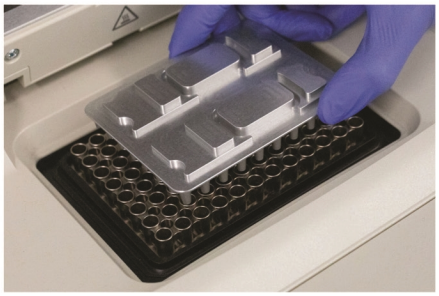
- Ensure that the Xenium Thermocycler Adapter is in contact with the thermal cycler surface uniformly.

b. Place the slide on the Xenium Thermocycler Adapter with the tissue facing up.

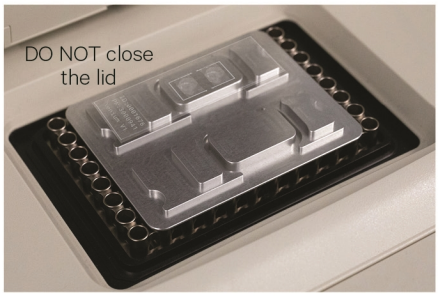
- Ensure that the entire bottom surface of the slide is in contact with Xenium Thermocycler Adapter.

DO NOT close the thermal cycler lid when incubating the slide due to the risk of touching the tissue.

Incubation in a Thermal Cycler



Place Thermocycler Adaptor



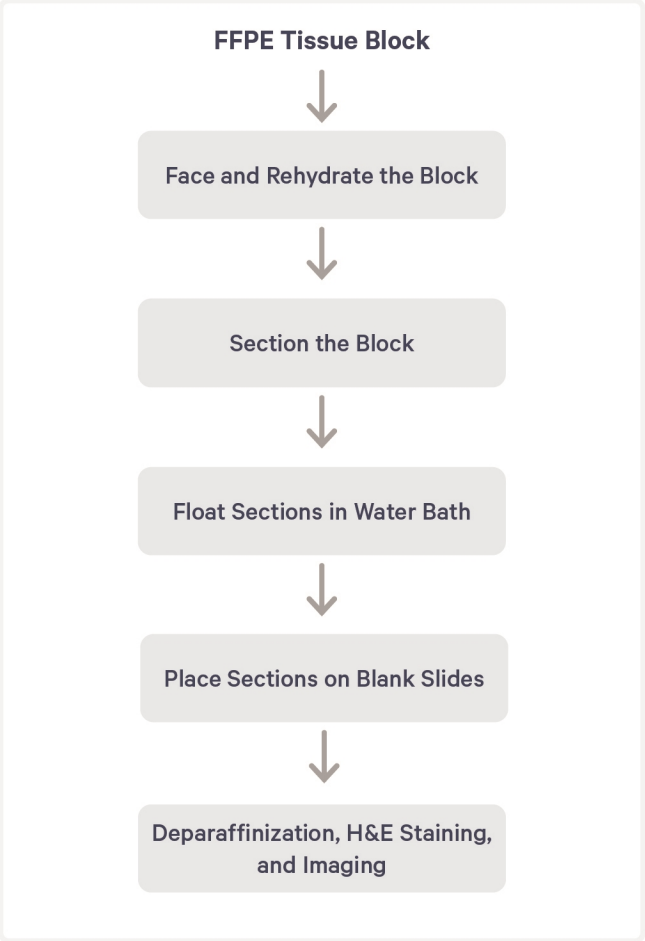
Incubate Slide

1. FFPE Tissue Sectioning, Section Placement, and H&E Staining for Quality Check

Overview

This section provides guidance on sectioning FFPE tissue blocks, section placement on blank slides using a water bath, and H&E staining to examine tissue quality.

Xenium slides are not used for the quality check. Sectioning and placement on Xenium slides for the full workflow occur in 3.1 Section Placement on Xenium Slides on page 32.



Face the Block and Rehydrate

FFPE tissue block is placed in a microtome and cut to face the tissue. The block is rehydrated in an ice bath.

Sectioning

The tissue block is sectioned using a microtome.

Section Placement

Sections are collected in a water bath and are allowed to float on the water surface until they are flat and free from wrinkles and folds. The optimal floating time depends upon the specific tissue type and should be empirically determined when working with new tissue types. Expanded tissue sections are placed on a blank slide for H&E staining.

Deparaffinization and H&E Staining

Tissue sections are deparaffinized and stained in Hematoxylin and Eosin staining solutions. Perform H&E staining according to any preferred protocol. A deparaffinization and H&E protocol are provided in the Appendix. Stained tissue sections are then coverslipped and ready to image. Proceed immediately to imaging following the H&E Staining workflow. Review the H&E image thoroughly to assess tissue quality. Inspect tissue morphology for tissue processing and sectioning artifacts that may contribute to poor assay performance. See Deparaffinization & H&E Staining on page 38 and Troubleshooting on page 34 section in the Appendix for further guidance. If quality is satisfactory, proceed to 3.1 Section Placement on Xenium Slides on page 32.

1.0 Get Started

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
☐	Mounting Media	-	-	Ambient
☐	Milli-Q Water	-	-	Ambient
☐	Water Bath	-	Equilibrate to optimal temperature.	Ambient
☐	Blank Slides	-		Ambient
☐	Brushes	-		Ambient
☐	Microtome	-		Ambient
☐	Microtome blade	-		Ambient
☐	Fan *(optional, but recommended)*	-		Ambient
☐	Section Dryer Oven *(optional, but recommended)*	-	Equilibrate to desired temperature.	Ambient
☐	Marker	-		Ambient
☐	Coverslips	-		Ambient
☐	Wide-bore pipettes	-		Ambient

1.1 Facing the Block

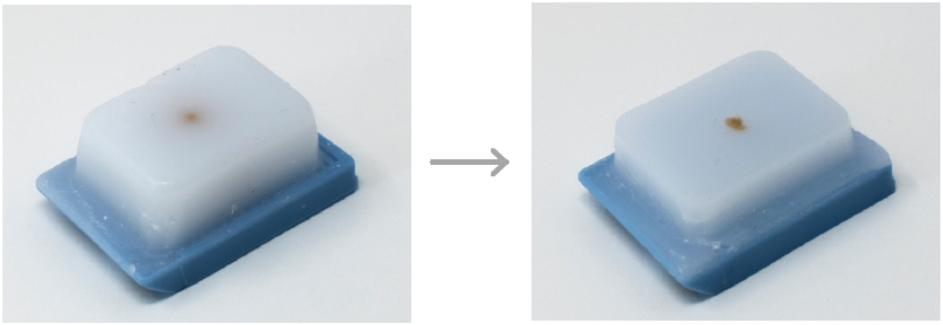
Before starting, wipe down all the surfaces and work areas with RNase Zap RNase decontaminating solution. If necessary, rewipe the area with 100% ethanol to quickly dry the surface.

a. Remove tissue blocks from storage.

b. Set the microtome to the 15 µm setting.

c. Cut the tissue block at 15 µm until all of the edges of the tissue are exposed or until the region of interest is exposed. The block should be at **room temperature** during cutting.

Exposing the Tissue Block



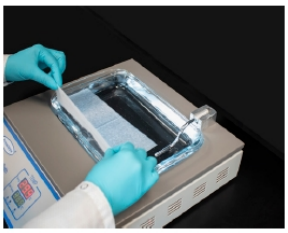
1.2 Sectioning

a. Fill up a water bath with Milli-Q water and ensure that the temperature is set at **42°C** and free from bubbles & particulates by gliding a laboratory wipe over the water surface. Repeat this step between sectioning as and when necessary.

TIPS

42ºC is the recommended water bath temperature for most tissues. However, water bath temperature may need optimization based on the tissue type. Determine optimal water bath conditions before tissue placement on the Xenium slides by practicing section placement on a blank slide. See Tips & Best Practices for guidance on optimizing water bath temperature. To better visualize the tissue sections, a Lighted Tissue Floating Bath with LED illumination can be used instead of standard water bath.

Remove Bubbles



b. Place blocks in the ice bath, ensuring that the tissue part is fully submerged. Ice should be from filtered water. If not available, freeze Milli-Q water ahead of tissue sectioning.

c. Incubate on the ice bath for **10-30 min**. The incubation time depends upon the tissue type and the extent of dehydration. Extent of dehydration depends on processing method and age of tissue block.

Monitor the exposed tissue every 5-10 min during the ice bath incubation. The tissue surface should be smooth and shiny and free of bumps at the end of the incubation. Sectioning compression and shattering are usually due to insufficient hydration. For more information on tissue hydration, see Troubleshooting section.

FFPE Tissue Block in Ice Bath

d. Carefully wipe off the excess oils from a 35X Ultra disposable blade using a laboratory wipe with 100% ethanol. Let the ethanol evaporate before proceeding. Always use new blades for sectioning.

e. Secure the blade in the disposable blade holder of the microtome and place the knife guard over the blade to minimize injury. Ensure that the clearance angle is set to 10°. Set the microtome to 5 µm (or desired cutting thickness) for sectioning.

f. After hydration is complete, place the tissue block in the specimen clamp and align it with the blade. For tissue blocks with exposed tissue, discard the first few sections and start collection on subsequent sections.

g. To collect sections, place the paintbrush tip slightly above and parallel to the blade. Lift section by lightly touching the edge with the paintbrush while rotating the wheel handle.

h. With the help of the brush, pick section up. Immediately place it on the water surface of the water bath, making sure that the brush tip goes underneath and away from the section.

i. Proceed directly to Section Placement.

1.3 Section Placement on Blank Slides

a. Allow sections to float for previously determined optimal time.

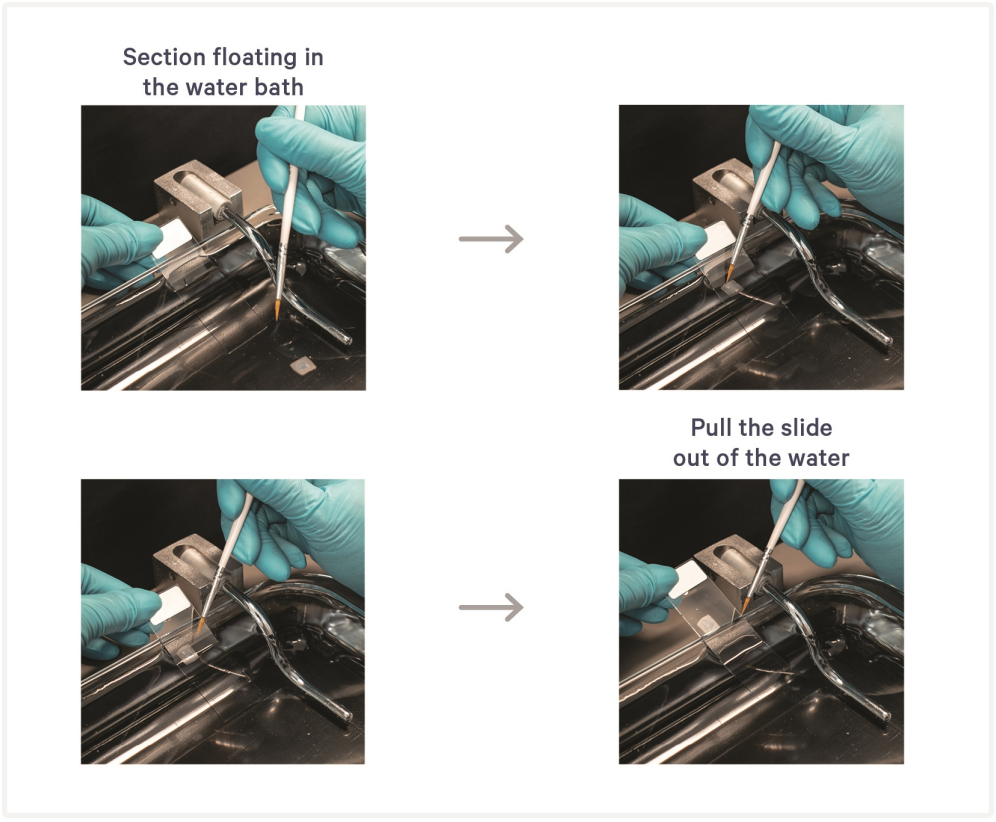
b. Insert the slide into the water.

c. Using the paintbrush or the probe, maneuver the section to the slide.

If sections float away from the slide, the slide can also be dipped into the water bath before section placement.

d. Pull the slide up and out of the water, ensuring there are no air bubbles trapped underneath and set aside.

If sections require repositioning and the sections have not dried onto the slide, repeat section placement by resubmerging the slide and refloating sections in the water bath. Ensure that minimal water is trapped beneath the section and that the section does not disintegrate from extended floating in the water bath.



e. Repeat, if needed, for additional sections, ensuring that the previous sections do not get re-submerged in the water.

f. Dry tissue sections upright in a drying rack at room temperature until tissue is opaque and no water remains on top of or under the section. A fan may be used to assist in drying.

g. Place the slides in a slide drying rack and incubate for **10 min** at **42°C** in an oven or thermal cycler.

See Tips & Best Practices for guidance on slide incubation.

h. Proceed to H&E staining.

1.4 Deparaffinization & H&E Staining

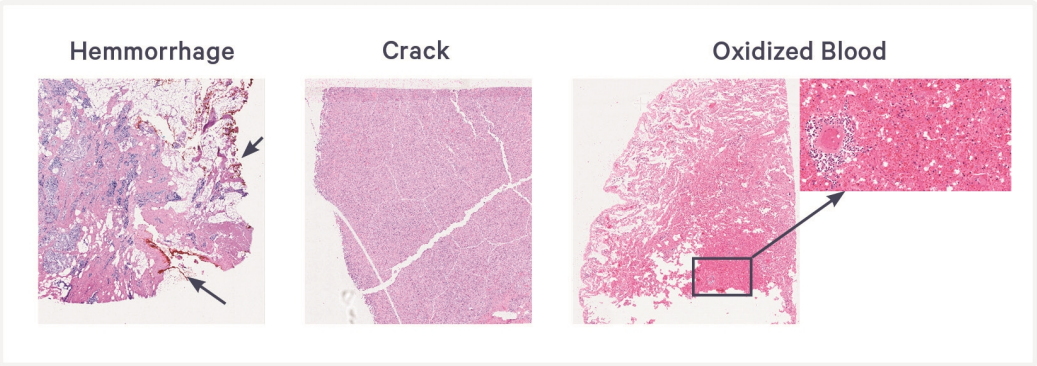
Tissue sections on slides must be deparaffinized prior to H&E staining. A deparaffinization protocol is provided in the Appendix.

Perform H&E staining according to any preferred protocol. An H&E protocol is provided in the Appendix.

1.5 H&E Tissue Quality Assessment

Review the H&E image thoroughly to assess tissue quality and select area(s) of interest. If scoring the block or section is necessary, refer to Optional Trimming/Scoring the Block on page 46.

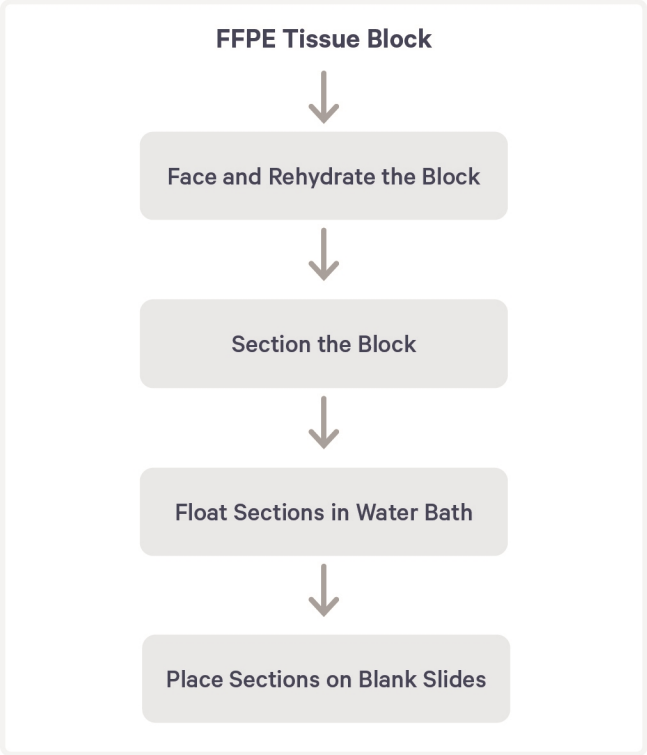
Ensure that the tissue section is free from tissue processing and sectioning artifacts as shown in Troubleshooting on page 34. Tissue processing artifacts may include improper fixation, squeeze/crush artifacts, and hemorrhaging. Examples are shown in the images below. If imaging reveals satisfactory tissue morphology, proceed with 2. Optional - Practice FFPE Tissue Sectioning & Section Placement on page 27 if additional sectioning practice is needed or 3. FFPE Tissue Sectioning & Section Placement on page 29 for placement of tissue sections on Xenium slides.



2. Optional - Practice FFPE Tissue Sectioning & Section Placement

Overview

This section provides guidance on sectioning FFPE tissue blocks and section placement on blank slides using a water bath. This practice step is optional. After examining the H&E tissue section, if necessary, score of the block to isolate the region of interest.



Face the Block and Rehydrate

FFPE tissue block is placed in a microtome and cut to face the tissue. Facing is only necessary for new, unused blocks. For tissue blocks with exposed tissue, discard the first few sections and start collection on subsequent sections. The block is rehydrated in an ice bath. Perform as described in step 1.

Sectioning

The tissue block is sectioned using a microtome to generate appropriately sized sections for blank slides. Perform as described in step 1.

Section Placement

Draw the template shown in Xenium Slide Template on page 12 onto a blank slide to simulate the Sample Area on the Xenium slide. Sections are collected in a water bath and are allowed to float on the water surface until they are flat and free from wrinkles and folds. The optimal floating time depends upon the specific tissue type and should be empirically determined when working with new tissue types.

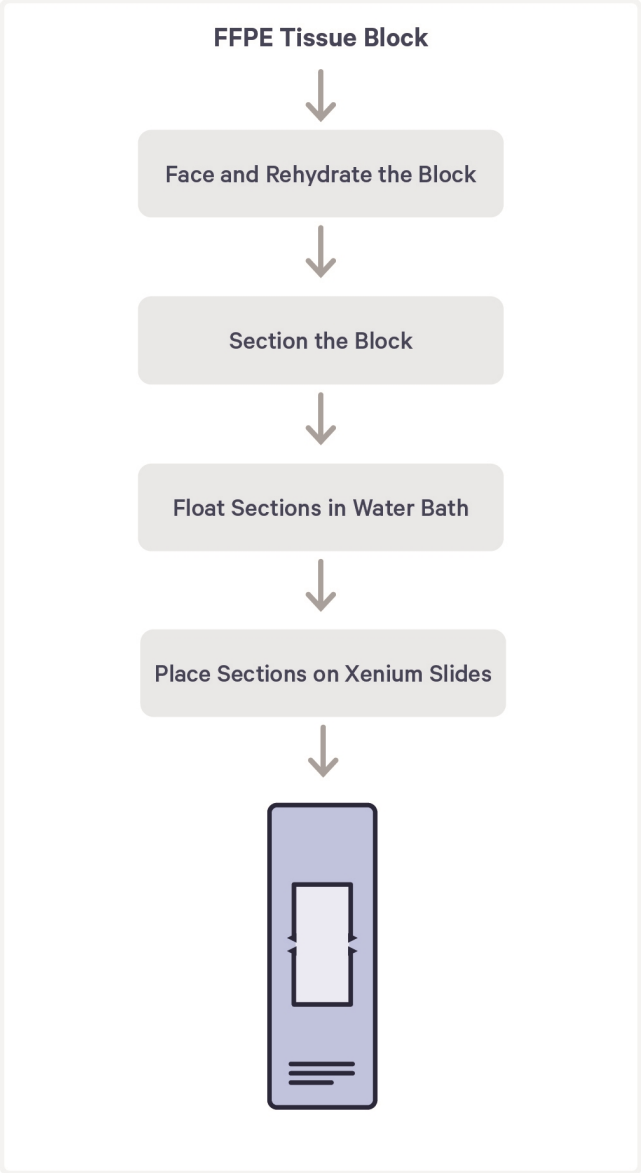
2.0 Get Started

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
☐	Milli-Q Water	-	-	Ambient
☐	Water Bath	-	Equilibrate to optimal temperature.	Ambient
☐	Blank Slides	-		Ambient
☐	Brushes	-		Ambient
☐	Microtome	-		Ambient
☐	Microtome blade	-		Ambient
☐	Fan *(optional, but recommended)*	-		Ambient
☐	Section Dryer Oven *(optional, but recommended)*	-	Equilibrate to desired temperature.	Ambient
☐	Marker	-		Ambient
☐	Coverslips	-		Ambient

3. FFPE Tissue Sectioning & Section Placement

Overview

This section provides guidance on sectioning FFPE tissue blocks and section placement on the Xenium slides using a water bath.



Face the Block and Rehydrate

FFPE tissue block is placed in a microtome and cut to face the tissue. Facing is only necessary for new, unused blocks. For tissue blocks with exposed

tissue, discard the first few sections and start collection on subsequent sections. The block is rehydrated in an ice bath. Perform as described in step 1.

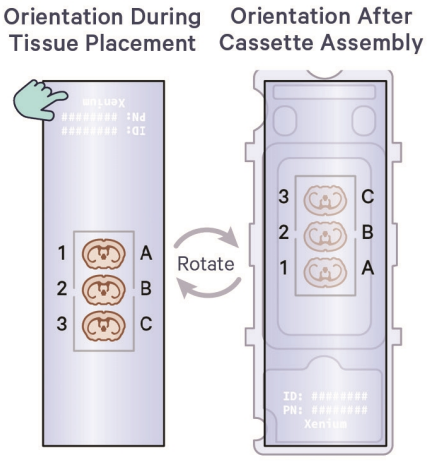
Sectioning

The tissue block with exposed tissue is optionally trimmed or scored to make it compatible in size to the Sample Area on Xenium slides. The tissue block is then sectioned by a microtome to generate appropriately sized sections for Xenium slides. Perform as described in step 1.

Section Placement

Sections are collected in a water bath and are allowed to float on the water surface until they are flat and free from wrinkles and folds. The optimal floating time depends upon the specific tissue type and should be empirically determined when working with new tissue types. Expanded tissue sections are placed on the slide of choice. Prior to placing tissue sections on a Xenium slide, practice section placement on a blank slide. Do not obstruct the fiducials while placing tissue.

Slides are assembled into the Xenium Cassette with the etched label oriented towards the bottom. If holding the Xenium slide by the etched label for section placement, the slide will be rotated during cassette assembly and placement on the Xenium Analyzer. This results in an image that is rotated compared to initial section placement (refer to image below).



3.0 Get Started

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Equilibrate to room temperature				
☐	Xenium Slides	3000941	Equilibrate at room temperature for 30 min prior to sectioning.	–20°C
Obtain				
☐	Water Bath	-	Equilibrate to optimal temperature.	Ambient
☐	Brushes	-		Ambient
☐	Microtome	-		Ambient
☐	Microtome blade	-		Ambient
☐	Fan *(optional, but recommended)*	-		Ambient
☐	Section Dryer Oven *(optional, but recommended)*	-	Equilibrate to desired temperature.	Ambient
☐	Marker	-		Ambient

3.1 Section Placement on Xenium Slides

Optional: Before placing sections on Xenium slides, trace the Sample Area onto the back of the slide with a marker. Using an unsupported marker may compromise assay performance. See Xenium Slide Template on page 12 for slide layout.

Prior to section placement, face, rehydrate, and section the block as described in step 1.

a. Allow sections to float for previously determined optimal time.

b. Insert the slide into the water.

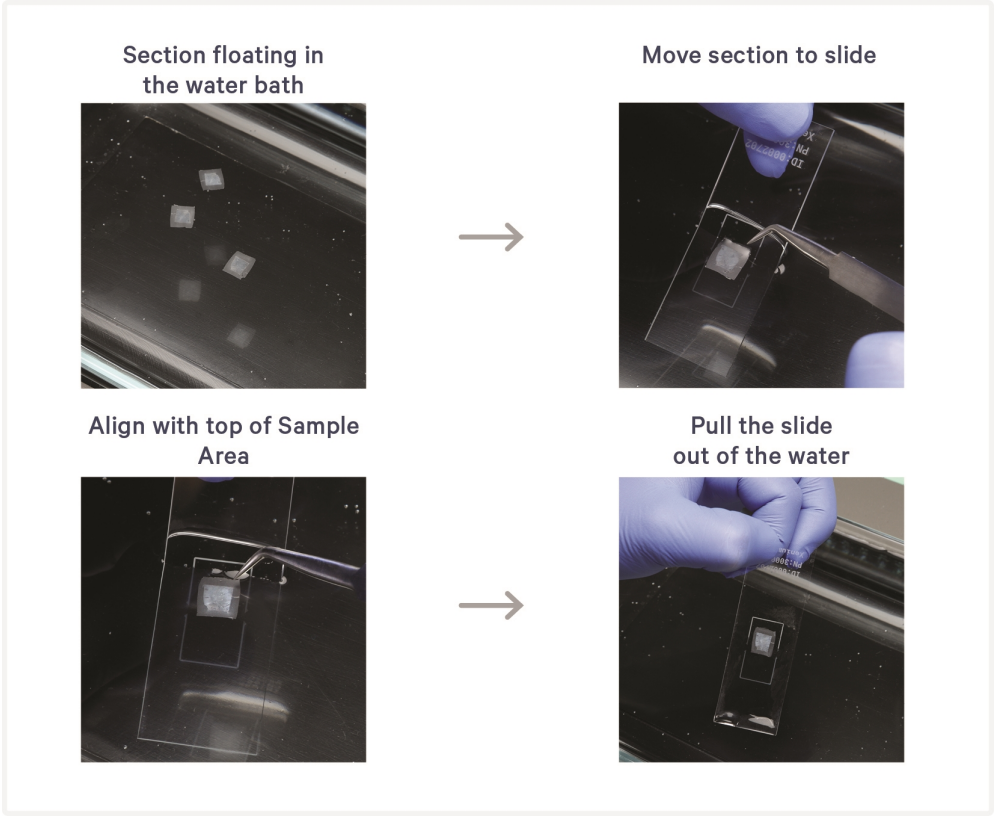
c. Using the paintbrush or the probe, maneuver the section to the top of the Sample Area on the slide.

If sections float away from the slide, Xenium slide can also be dipped into the water bath before section placement.

d. Pull the slide up and out of the water, ensuring there are no air bubbles trapped underneath and set aside. Avoid covering the fiducial frame.

If sections require repositioning and the sections have not dried onto the slide, it may be possible to repeat section placement by resubmerging the slide and refloating sections in the water bath. Ensure that minimal water is trapped beneath the section and that the section does not disintegrate from extended floating in the water bath.

If sections are placed incorrectly, contact support@10xgenomics.com to troubleshoot.



e. Repeat for the remaining sections, ensuring that the previous sections do not get re-submerged in the water.

f. Dry tissue sections upright in a drying rack at room temperature until tissue is opaque and no water remains on top of or under the section. A fan may be used to assist in drying. If no fan is used, slides may require extended drying time for up to **30 min** at **room temperature** to ensure no water remains under the section or until dry (inspect visually, do not touch tissue).

g. Place the slides in a slide drying rack and incubate for **3 h** for **42°C** in an oven or thermal cycler.

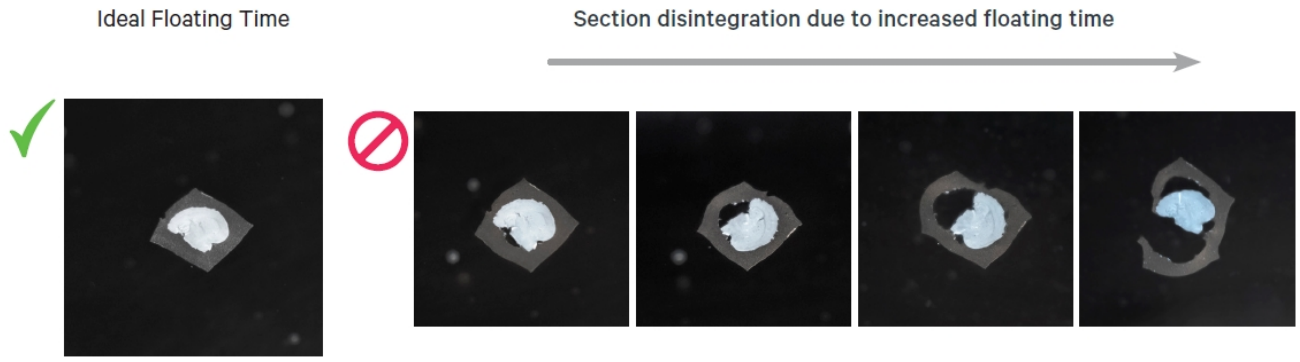
TIPS *See Tips & Best Practices for guidance on slide incubation.*

h. Place in a desiccator and keep overnight at **room temperature** to ensure proper drying.

STOP **i.** After overnight drying, proceed to deparaffinization and decrosslinking protocol (see References) or store the slide containing dry tissue sections at room temperature in a desiccator for up to **4 weeks**.

Troubleshooting

Ideal Floating Time Determination

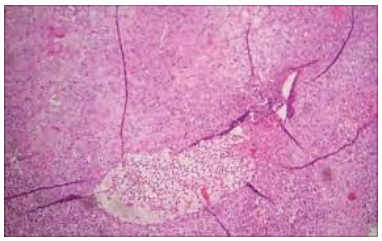


Common Issues when Processing Tissue Samples

Section Phenotype	Tissue Characteristic	Guidance
Tissue is very dry	High Connective Tissue or High Cell Density Tissue	Soak block for an extended period of time. Re-soak tissue block every few sections.
Shattering, rapid expansion	High Adipose Tissue	If tissue is shattering, ensure tissue block is very cold by soaking the block in ice water for 10 min, re-soaking every few sections. If tissue expansion is occurring, lower water bath temperature to 37-39°C.
Rapid expansion	Low Cell Density Tissue	Lower water bath temperature to 37-39°C.

Common Artifacts that cause Detachment or Misleading Data

Wrinkles



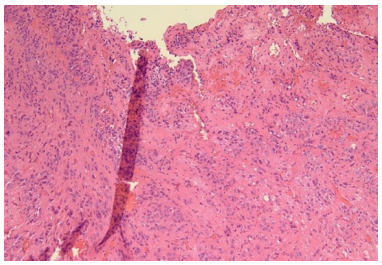
Causes

- Section compression (due to warm block or dull blade) during sectioning leads to wrinkle formation. These wrinkles become permanent when placed in the water bath.
- Accumulated wax or static electricity on microtome parts also contribute to section compression.

Troubleshooting

- Ensure that the block is well hydrated.
- Adjust temperature down and increase float time.
- Gently and gradually lay FFPE sections onto water bath surface, lengthwise.
- Utilize a new blade.
- Ensure microtome is cleaned with 100% ethanol to minimize static and section compression (bunching on blade).

Folds



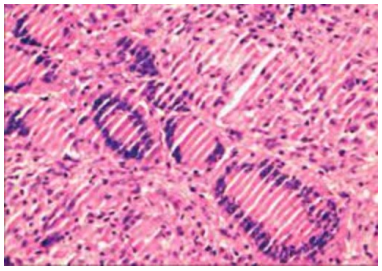
Causes

- Mostly happens when placing the section on the water bath especially when the section is uneven.
- If the fold is at the edge this most likely can happen during sectioning or mounting on the slide.

Troubleshooting

- Gently and gradually lay FFPE ribbons or sections onto water bath surface, lengthwise.
- If sections curl during sectioning, gently flatten them with a brush before floating.

Venetian Blinds or Shatter



Causes

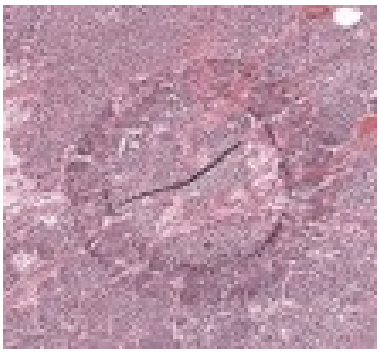
- Parallel lines in the section mostly appear due to dry tissue because of under-hydration of the block in the ice bath.
- Less likely due to dull blade or loose parts of the microtome.

Troubleshooting

- Increase incubation time of the block in ice bath.
- Tighten down components of microtome and make sure the blade is at a correct angle.

Common Artifacts that cause Detachment or Misleading Spatial Data

Air Bubbles



Causes

- Air bubbles from the bottom of the water bath can rise and stick under the section.

Troubleshooting

- Using a brush, gently remove the bubbles from the bottom of the water bath before floating the sections.

Waves

May be block-specific and easily observed under the microscope right after the section is picked up from the water bath. Minor waves can disappear after longer flotation in the water bath. Larger waves can create wrinkles or folds that are permanent after drying of the section.

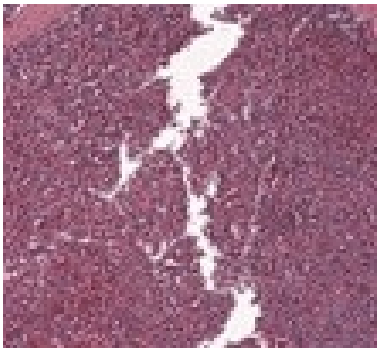
Causes

- Tissue incompletely infiltrated with wax absorbs water faster during hydration step. When sections from such blocks are floated, the parts that absorbed enough water will have difficulty flattening and become wavy.

Troubleshooting

- Chill the block on a cold block or on ice avoiding contact with water.
- Submerge the block for 5-15 min in the ice bath for gentle hydration.
- Increase flotation times and/or temperature of the water bath.

Cracks



Causes

- Dry and over-processed tissue can crack during sectioning.
- The cracks that are created before tissue embedding will be filled with wax when section is observed under the microscope after sectioning and wax will be washed away after deparaffinization or H&E staining.

Troubleshooting

- Prolonged hydration on the ice bath will most likely reduce the cracks.
- There is no solution for cracks created before tissue was embedded in wax.

Common Artifacts that cause Detachment or Misleading Spatial Data

Sweating

Causes

- Inadequate dehydration or under-processing of the tissue causes parts of the section to attract water and create this blistering effect. Such sections can disintegrate in the water bath.
- The blisters consist of:
  - Xylene or xylene substitutes if the cause is under-processing and insufficient removal of xylene or
  - Water droplets if the cause is inadequate dehydration.

Troubleshooting

- Be cautious about how long the block is kept in ice bath. Long incubation time in ice bath can impact section quality and thus should be avoided.
- Long flotation time in the water bath should be avoided.

Water Retention

Causes

- Sections from tissues that are under-processed or excessively hydrated before sectioning may retain water under the section mounted on a slide.
- Water will accumulate under section and cause uneven drying ultimately leading to detachment.

Troubleshooting

- Gently flicking the slide will help to get rid of the water. This is one of the most overlooked cause of detachment.

Disintegrating/Exploding Section

Causes

- Sections from tissues that are under-processed and not sufficiently infiltrated with wax can rapidly absorb water and explode or gradually disintegrate in the water bath.
- Tissues that are not sufficiently dehydrated can show similar phenotypes.
- Floating at high temperatures (42-50°C) can exacerbate the disintegration.

Troubleshooting

- Chilling of the block should be mostly performed on ice or cold block (30-60 min).
- Exposure to water in ice bath during chilling should be kept to a minimum (5-10 min).
- Flotation water bath temperature should be lowered to 38-40°C.

Appendix

Deparaffinization & H&E Staining

Tissue slides should be deparaffinized and H&E stained prior to QC assessment.

Deparaffinization Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
☐	Xylene	-	-	Ambient
☐	Ethanol	-	Prepare Ethanol dilutions using Nuclease-free water.	Ambient
☐	Nuclease-free Water	-	-	Ambient
☐	Forceps	-	-	Ambient
☐	Slide Rack	-	-	Ambient
☐	Coplin jars/Staining dishes	-	-	Ambient

H&E Staining Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
☐	Hematoxylin	-	-	Ambient
☐	Eosin	-	-	Ambient
☐	Bluing Reagent	-	-	Ambient
☐	Mounting Media	-	-	Ambient
☐	Xylene	-	-	Ambient
☐	Ethanol	-	Prepare Ethanol dilutions using Milli-Q water.	Ambient
☐	Forceps	-	-	Ambient
☐	Coplin Jars/Staining Dishes	-	-	Ambient
☐	Milli-Q Water	-	-	Ambient

For Deparaffinization:

Prepare all buffers fresh according to the tables below.

a. Prepare eight total coplin jars for deparaffinization steps. Prepare Ethanol dilutions using Nuclease-free water.

For Deparaffinization		
Items		**Preparation & Handling**
☐	Xylene	Label two coplin jars as Xylene Jar 1 and 2. Fill to capacity with xylene in each.
☐	100% Ethanol	Label two coplin jars as 100% Ethanol Jar 1 and 2. Fill to capacity with 100% ethanol.
☐	96% Ethanol	Label two coplin jars as 96% Ethanol Jar 1 and 2. Fill to capacity with 96% ethanol.
☐	70% Ethanol	Label one coplin jar as 70% Ethanol Jar. Fill to capacity with 70% ethanol.
☐	Nuclease-free water	Label one coplin jar as Nuclease-free Water Jar. Fill to capacity with Nuclease-free water.

TIPS

Alternatively, a slide staining dish can be used in place of a coplin jar. Adjust volumes accordingly. Use xylene-resistent dishes, gloves, and forceps during workflow. Prepare fresh reagents after every 20 slides or every week (whichever comes first).

Deparaffinization

Deparaffinization steps should be performed in a fume hood due to the hazardous nature of xylene. Xylene jars should be covered at all times to prevent evaporation.

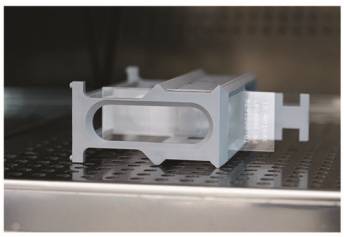
a. Retrieve the slide with tissue sections from the desiccator after overnight drying.

Remove any marker annotations on slide using a lint-free laboratory wipe and 100% Ethanol.

b. Place slide in a Section Dryer Oven and incubate uncovered at **60°C** for **30 min**. Keep the oven lid closed during incubation.

Incubation in a Section Dryer Oven

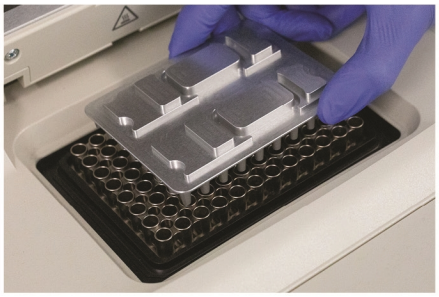
Place slide in a rack



Place slide sideways and keep the oven door closed during incubation

Alternatively, place a Thermocycler Adaptor on a thermal cycler set at **60°C.** Place slide on the Thermocycler Adaptor with the tissue side facing up and incubate at **60°C** for **30 min**. DO NOT close the thermal cycler lid.

Incubation in a Thermal Cycler

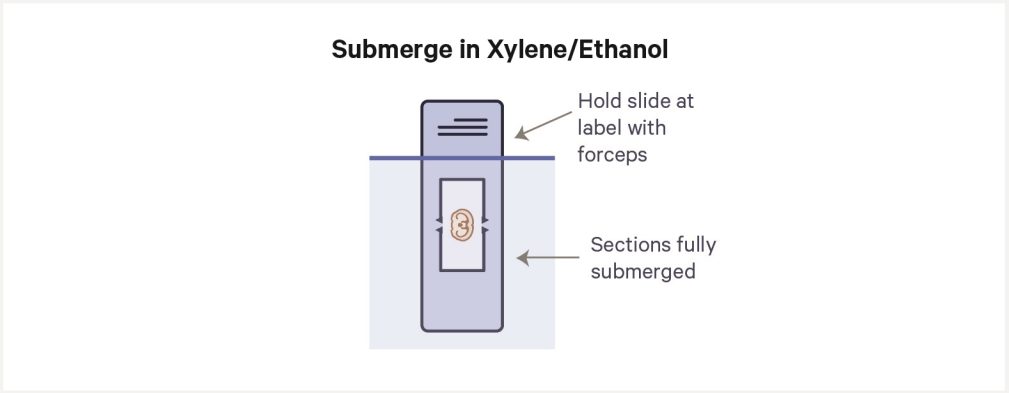


Place Thermocycler Adaptor

Incubate Slide for 30 min at 60°C

c. Remove from the oven or thermal cycler and allow the slide to cool down to **room temperature** for **7 min**.

d. Gently immerse slide in the Xylene Jar 1. Secure the jar cap to prevent xylene loss.



Hold slide at label with forceps for xylene immersion steps. When immersing slides in xylene, ensure that the tissue sections are completely submerged.

e. Incubate for **10 min**.

f. Gently immerse slide in the Xylene Jar 2 and incubate for **10 min**.

g. Gently immerse slide in the 100% Ethanol Jar 1 for **3 min**.

Hold slide at label with forceps for ethanol immersion steps. When immersing slides in ethanol, ensure that the tissue sections are completely submerged.

h. Gently immerse slide in the 100% Ethanol Jar 2 for **3 min**.

i. Gently immerse slide in the 96% Ethanol Jar 1 for **3 min**.

j. Gently immerse slide in the 96% Ethanol Jar 2 for **3 min**.

k. Gently immerse slide in the 70% Ethanol Jar for **3 min**.

l. Gently immerse slide in the Nuclease-free water Jar for **20 sec**.

Proceed directly to H&E staining. Leave slide in water until H&E reagents have been prepared.

H&E Preparation

TIPS *Prepare buffers in appropriate sized conical tube or bottle and transfer carefully to corresponding coplin jar.*

a. Filter Hematoxylin & Eosin solutions using filter paper before starting H&E Staining protocol.

b. Prepare sixteen total coplin jars for H&E Staining steps.

For H&E Staining		
Items		**Preparation & Handling**
☐	Hematoxylin Solution	Label one coplin jar as Hematoxylin Jar. Fill to capacity with Mayer's Hematoxylin Solution.
☐	Bluing Solution	Label one coplin jar as Bluing Solution Jar. Fill to capacity with Bluing Solution.
☐	70% Ethanol	Label one coplin jar as 70% Ethanol Jar. Fill to capacity with 70% ethanol.
☐	95% Ethanol	Label three coplin jars as 95% Ethanol Jar 1, 2, and 3. Fill to capacity with 95% ethanol.
☐	Eosin Solution	Label one coplin jar as Eosin Solution Jar. Fill to capacity with Eosin Solution.
☐	100% Ethanol	Label two coplin jars as 100% Ethanol Jar 1 and 2. Fill to capacity with 100% Ethanol.
☐	Xylene	Label two coplin jars as Xylene Jar 1 and 2. Fill to capacity with Xylene.
☐	Milli-Q Water	Label five coplin jars as Milli-Q Water Jar 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Fill to capacity with Milli-Q Water.

TIPS *Alternatively, a slide staining dish can be used in place of a coplin jar. Adjust volumes accordingly. Use xylene-resistent dishes, gloves, and forceps during workflow.*

H&E Staining

H&E Staining steps should be performed in a fume hood due to the hazardous nature of xylene. Xylene jars should be covered at all times to prevent evaporation.

a. Gently immerse slide in the Milli-Q Water Jar 1 for **2 min** at **room temperature**.

TIPS

Water immersions may be performed in glass beakers containing Milli-Q water, if preferred.

b. Gently immerse slide in the Hematoxylin Solution Jar for **20 min** at **room temperature**.

c. Gently immerse slide in the Milli-Q Water Jar 2 for **1 min** at **room temperature**.

d. Gently immerse slide in the Milli-Q Water Jar 3 for **1 min** at **room temperature**.

e. Gently immerse slide in the Milli-Q Water Jar 4 for **1 min** at **room temperature**.

f. Gently immerse slide in the Bluing Solution Jar for **1 min** at **room temperature**.

g. Gently immerse slide in the Milli-Q Water Jar 5 for **1 min** at **room temperature**.

h. Gently immerse slide in the 70% Ethanol Jar for **3 min** at **room temperature**.

i. Gently immerse slide in the 95% Ethanol Jar 1 for **3 min** at **room temperature**.

j. Gently immerse slide in the Eosin Solution Jar for **2 min** at **room temperature**.

k. Gently immerse slide in the 95% Ethanol Jar 2 for **30 sec** at **room temperature**.

l. Gently immerse slide in the 95% Ethanol Jar 3 for **30 sec** at **room temperature**.

m. Gently immerse slide in the 100% Ethanol Jar 1 for **30 sec** at **room temperature**.

n. Gently immerse slide in the 100% Ethanol Jar 2 for **30 sec** at **room temperature**.

o. Gently immerse slide in the Xylene Jar 1 for **3 min** at **room temperature**.

p. Gently immerse slide in the Xylene Jar 2 for **3 min** at **room temperature**.

Coverslipping

Prior to mounting the coverslip, ensure that the slide is dry. Moisture on the surface of the slide may result in faulty mounting. Wipe away any residual droplets with a lint-free laboratory wipe.

a. Place slide on a flat, clean, non-absorbent work surface.

b. Using a **wide-bore** pipette tip, add **150-200 µl** mounting media to uniformly cover all tissue sections on the slide.

c. Apply the coverslip at an angle on one end of the slide. Slowly lower the coverslip, without introducing bubbles. Allow mounting media to spread and settle.

d. If needed, remove any large excess of mounting media by carefully wicking away from the edge of the coverslip with a lint-free laboratory wipe. Be careful not to move coverslip and disturb the tissue.

e. Dry the coverslipped slide for **30 min** at **room temperature**.

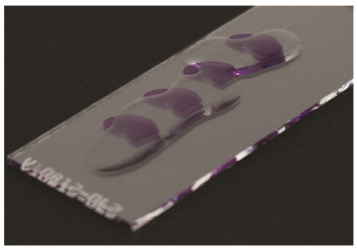
STOP

f. Once coverslipping is complete, **immediately** proceed with imaging.

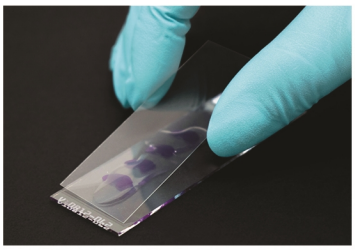
If imaging reveals satisfactory tissue morphology, proceed with 3. FFPE Tissue Sectioning & Section Placement on page 29 .

Coverslipping

Cover uniformly with Mounting Media



Apply Coverslip



Slides in images are representative

Optional Trimming/Scoring the Block

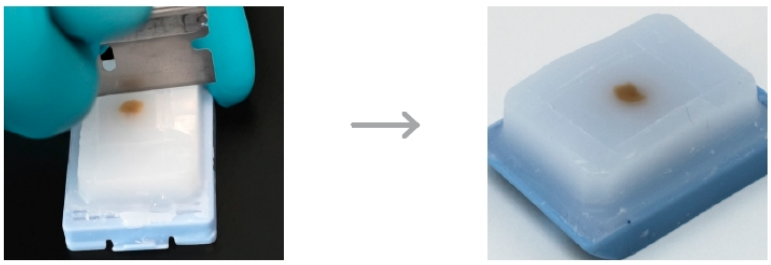
Before starting, wipe down all surfaces and work areas with RNaseZap RNase decontaminating solution. If necessary, rewipe the area with 100% ethanol to quickly dry the surface. Tissue sections placed on the Xenium slide should not obscure the fiducial frame. To ensure proper fit, the FFPE tissue block can be trimmed or scored as described below.

FFPE Tissue Block is larger than Sample Area, but tissue is smaller than Sample Area

For tissue samples that fit the Sample Area and are embedded in a large tissue block, the excess paraffin around the tissue can be trimmed to remove the excess and obtain smaller sections that fit the Sample Area.

- After facing, remove the tissue block from the microtome and start trimming.
- Using a razor blade, remove excess paraffin from around the tissue, so it is not larger than the Fiducial frame.
- Retain paraffin edges around the tissue samples to enhance tissue attachment on the slide.

Trimming large tissue block containing tissues that fit the Sample Area



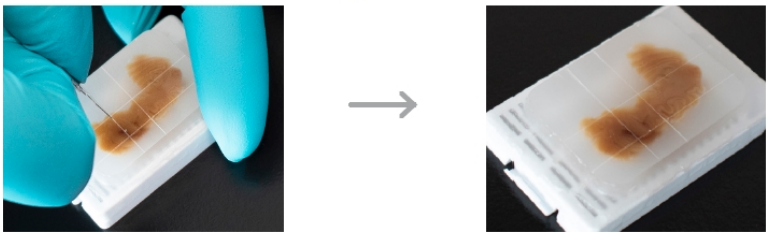
FFPE Tissue Block & Tissue are larger than Sample Area

Tissue samples larger than the Sample Area can be scored using a razor blade to generate smaller sections.

- Remove the tissue block from the microtome and start scoring.
- To score, lightly glide a razor blade over the surface of the tissue to introduce a shallow cut. This should yield approximately 10-15 trimmed

sections. A deep incision may lead to tissue damage and disintegration.

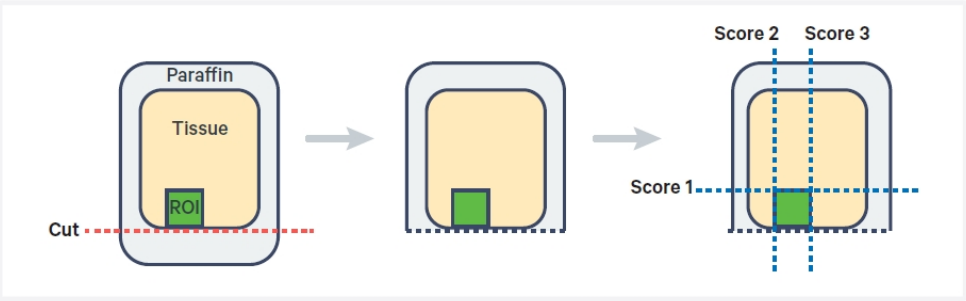
Scoring tissues larger than the Sample Area



Scoring Configurations

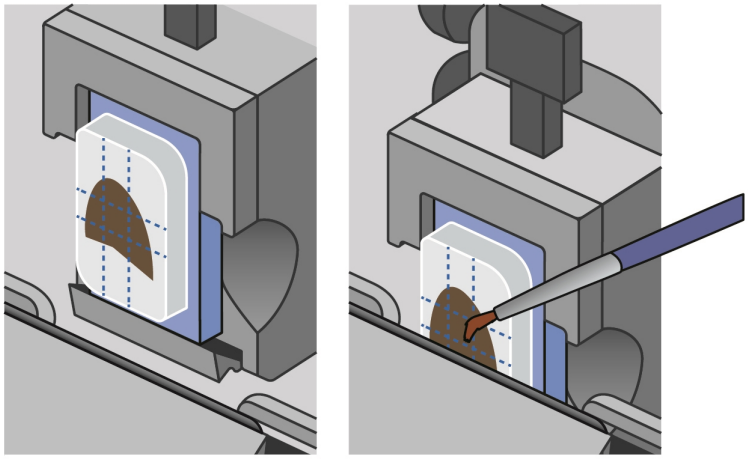
Region of interest (ROI) is at the Top or Bottom of the Tissue

- If the ROI is at the bottom of the tissue, remove excess wax such that only three scoring cuts are necessary.
- This configuration may prevent curling of the ROI, as the excess wax at the top of the block may curl before affecting the ROI
- Retain paraffin edges around the tissue samples to enhance tissue attachment on the slide.



ROI is in the Middle of the Tissue

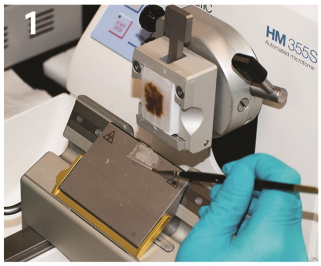
- If the ROI is in the middle of the tissue, make four scoring cuts as shown below.
- To prevent curling, place the brush over the edge of the ROI as the blade crosses the section. Avoid cutting the brush bristles on the blade.



Alternative Trimming or Scoring of FFPE Block & Tissue

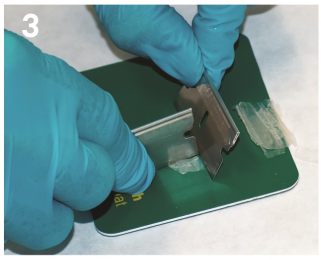
Keep all suface and materials RNase free. Avoid tearing of the FFPE sections during cutting. Keep the 5 µm FFPE sections from curling.

Set the microtome to 5 µm for tissue block and begin sectioning

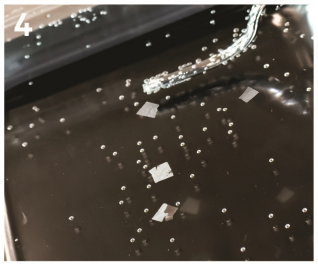


Collect sections with a paintbrush and place onto a cutting mat

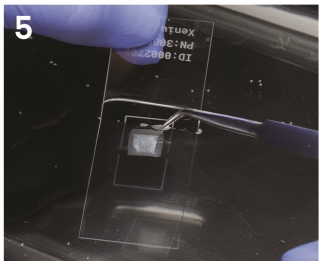
Cut tissue sections into to fit in the Sample Area of the Xenium slide



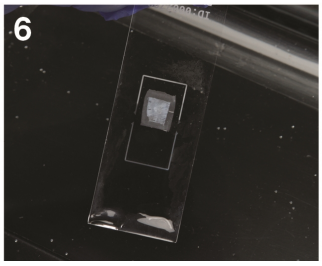
Place sections in the water bath



Align section with Sample Area



Pull the slide out of the water



Shipping Guidance

- After sectioning, place up to two slides in a slide mailer.
- Place slide mailer in a sealed bag with a bag of desiccant at **4°C** until ready for shipment.
- When ready for shipment, place mailer in a styrofoam box with cool packs.

References

1. Xenium In Situ for FFPE – Deparaffinization & Decrosslinking Demonstrated Protocol (CG000580)

Document Revision Summary

Document Number	CG000578
Title	Xenium In Situ for FFPE – Tissue Preparation Guide
Revision	Rev C
Revision Date	August 2023
Specific Changes	• Updated recommended thermal cycler list. • Added guidance for refloating tissue sections.

Contact:
Email: support@10xgenomics.com
10x Genomics
6230 Stoneridge Mall Road
Pleasanton, CA