



Infiltration or Impregnation

It is process of replaces the clearing agents by molten paraffin wax in the tissue: two or three changes of paraffin employed to eliminate traces of the clearing agent; soften the paraffin and make sectioning of tissue difficult

Prolonged treatment in molten paraffin causes shrinkage and hardening of the tissue ; they should be left in this medium no longer than necessary .

Duration of the bath depend on:

- ✚ Size
- ✚ Thickness
- ✚ Density
- ✚ Nature of the specimen.

Skin and nervous tissue infiltrate slowly with paraffin.

Muscle, fibrous tissue, blood and fibrin will become over hardened in paraffin if left in this medium for more than 3hrs.

Brain and spinal cord: need relatively longer treatment due to their compact nature 4-6 hrs.

Paraffin oven

Is instrument used to store melted paraffin for embedding purpose and for infiltration of tissue.

The temperature of the oven should be regulated just above the melting point of paraffin between 50-60 °C.

Incubator

An incubator regulated at 37°C , it is used an excellent drying oven especially for section of the C.N.S which requires careful and slow drying.

Brain sections: dried slowly overnight.

Paraffin blocks are best stores in a cool place in small cardboard pillboxes, write on the box , the identification, the fixture used and the number of blocks within.