

Dissection SOP

SCOPE

The dissection of preserved specimens is essential to the study of biology and anatomy. Specimen dissection comes with a variety of physical, chemical and biological hazards that must be addressed in order to ensure the safety of those performing the dissection. It is the responsibility of the instructor to provide students with the necessary information and training to be able to perform dissections safely. It is the responsibility of the University to provide the necessary equipment to be able to perform dissections safely. It is the responsibility of students to employ the proper techniques and to make proper use of the available equipment.

General Procedures:

- Wear appropriate PPE (gloves, goggles and lab coat)
- Use 'hands free' techniques for changing scalpel and razor blades
- Use ventilation

Hands free techniques for scalpel blades:

- To put on: Open the package and grip the back of the blade with hemostats (not your fingers). Guide the blade into the scalpel handle. There should be a click when it is securely in place.
- To remove: Use the ClickSmart blade remover and follow the picture directions on the container.

Note: For additional precautions and requirements for working with human cadavers please, refer to the Vertebrate Anatomy Lab SOP.

Applies to	Hazard	Hazard control
All dissection	Laceration from scalpel	Use 'hands free' techniques for changing and disposing of scalpel blades. As much as possible cut away from yourself. More specifically, be sure that all fingers are in a location that is not in line with the intended path of the scalpel. Remember to look past the specimen that is being cut to what would be cut should the scalpel pass through. When not in use, place the scalpel so the blade points to the corner of an instrument tray. Change the blade as soon as it becomes dull.

All dissection	Skin contact with chemical preservative	Wear gloves to protect exposed skin.
All dissection	Inhalation of chemical preservative vapors	Use ventilation in addition to regular room air exchange. Do not perform dissections in locations that do not provide the necessary ventilation.
All 'wet' dissection, including human, non-human vertebrate and invertebrate.	Eye contact with chemical preservative.	Wear goggles to protect from splashes and squirts
All human and non-human vertebrate dissection.	Contact with potentially infectious tissues.	Wear gloves to protect exposed skin. Wear lab coat or apron to prevent clothing contamination.
Any dissection that involves bone cutting or sawing.	Laceration from power tools. Lacerations from sharp bone edges.	Proper training prior to use of equipment. No unauthorized/untrained individuals are to use bone-cutting equipment.
Any dissection that involves bone cutting or sawing.	Inhalation of bone dust.	Use ventilation in addition to regular room air exchange. Do not perform dissections in locations that do not provide the necessary ventilation.
Any dissection that involves bone cutting or sawing.	Generation of small projectile pieces of bone.	Wear goggles and face shield that are impact resistant rated.

REVIEW

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences: Noelle Wiersma June 21, 2017

Chemical Hygiene Officer: Joy Diaz June 21, 2017

Department of Health Science Chair: Mike Edigar June 13, 2017

Department of Biology Representative/A&P Instructor: Mike Sardinia June 20, 2017