

Consolidation of pellets using BSA fixation

Dispersion of cells from cell pellets is common problem especially when the pellets are further incubated in sucrose for thawed frozen section method. In our laboratory we have recently developed the following method to consolidate pellet and improve their cutting qualities.

- Pellet cells in 1.5ml Eppendorf tube and wash in PBS by repeated centrifugation to remove the fixative.
- Remove supernatant from the pellet and add 0.5ml 20% w/v BSA in PBS.
- Resuspend and centrifuge to make a pellet.
- Remove the supernatant and overlay the pellet with the same fixative used for fixing the cells. (0.5-2% glutaraldehyde in PBS or works best presumably because it crosslinks more extensively.)
- Dislodge the pellet and continue fixing for as long as is compatible with preservation of structure or antigenicity. This procedure significantly improves the cutting qualities of the pellet in thawed frozen sections.