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Molecular in vitro diagnostic examinations - Specifications for pre-examination processes for FFPE tissue - Part 1: Isolated RNA

Tests de diagnostic moléculaire in vitro - Spécifications relatives aux processus préanalytiques pour les tissus FFPE - Partie 1: ARN extrait

Molekularanalytische in-vitro-diagnostische Verfahren - Spezifikationen für präanalytische Prozesse für FFPE-Gewebeproben - Teil 1: Isolierte RNS

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16827-1:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 140 "*In vitro* diagnostic medical devices", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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Introduction

Molecular *in vitro* diagnostics has enabled a significant progress in medicine. Further progress is expected by new technologies analysing signatures of nucleic acids, proteins, and metabolites in human tissues and body fluids. However, the profiles and/or integrity of these molecules can change drastically during primary sample collection, transport, storage, and processing thus making the outcome from diagnostics or research unreliable or even impossible because the subsequent analytical assay will not determine the situation in the patient but an artificial profile generated during the pre-examination process. Therefore, a standardization of the entire process from primary sample collection to RNA analysis is needed. Studies have been undertaken to determine the important influencing factors. This Technical Specification draws upon such work to codify and standardize the steps for formalin fixed and paraffin embedded (FFPE) tissue with regard to RNA analysis in what is referred to as the preanalytical phase.

1 Scope

This Technical Specification gives recommendations for the handling, documentation and processing of FFPE tissue specimens intended for RNA analysis during the preanalytical phase before a molecular assay is performed. This Technical Specification is applicable to molecular *in vitro* diagnostic examinations (e.g., *in vitro* diagnostic laboratories, laboratory customers, developers and manufacturers of *in vitro* diagnostics, institutions and commercial organizations performing biomedical research, biobanks, and regulatory authorities).

The formalin fixation and the paraffin embedding process lead to modifications of the RNA molecules, which can impact the validity and reliability of the analytical test results.

Therefore, it is essential to take special measures to minimize the described profile changes and modifications within the tissue for subsequent RNA analysis.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN ISO 15189:2012, *Medical laboratories — Requirements for quality and competence (ISO 15189:2012, Corrected version 2014-08-15)*

ISO 15190, *Medical laboratories — Requirements for safety*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN ISO 15189:2012 and the following apply.

3.1
ambient temperature
unregulated temperature of the surrounding air

3.2
analytical phase
processes that start with the isolated analyte and include all kinds of parameter testing or chemical manipulation for quantitative or qualitative analysis

3.3
cold ischemia
condition after removal of the tissue from the body until its stabilization or fixation

3.4
FFPE
formalin fixation and paraffin embedding

3.5
FFPE tissues
formalin fixed and paraffin embedded tissues

3.6
formalin
saturated formaldehyde solution containing a mas fraction of 37 % (corresponding to a volume fraction of 40 %) formaldehyde, termed 100 % formalin