

BENNHOLD'S CONGO RED FOR AMYLOID

Purpose The demonstration of amyloid deposited in tissue.

Principle Green birefringence following Congo red staining is considered the most specific technique for the demonstration of amyloid.

Fixative 10% neutral buffered formalin.

Reagents

1% Congo Red

Congo red ... 1.0 g

Distilled water ... 100.0 ml

Quality Control

Use a control slide with a known amyloid. Also run a negative control.

Procedure

1. Deparaffinize and hydrate to distilled water.
2. Congo red solution for 30 minutes.
3. Wash in running water to remove excess stain.
4. Counterstain in hematoxylin for 1 minute.
5. Wash in running water for 1 minute.
6. Blue in ammonia water.
7. Wash in running water for 1 minute.
8. Dehydrate in 95% alcohol, absolute alcohol, and clear in xylene, two changes of each.
9. Mount in synthetic resin.

Results

Amyloid ... pink to red

Nuclei ... blue

References

Histotechnology: A Self-Instructional Text, Freida L. Carson, 1990, p. 256.