



Instructions for Use

QUICKSLIDE™ METHANOL (METHYL ALCOHOL)

Cat. no. QS1016	Methanol (Methyl Alcohol), 16 oz. bottle	1 each
-----------------	--	--------

INTENDED USE

QuickSlide™ Methanol (Methyl Alcohol) is recommended for methanol fixation of clinical specimens or QC slides in preparation of the Gram stain or for slides run on QuickSlide™ automated Gram slide stainers.

SUMMARY

Gram staining requires fixation of the specimen to the microscope slide. Typically, specimen fixing is done either by heat fixation or methanol fixation. Fixing the specimen causes the cells to adhere to the slide, making it possible to stain and rinse the slide without a significant loss of cells. For best results, it is recommended that methanol fixation be used, rather than heat fixation, since this method is far superior in preventing cell lysis, distortion, or damage to cells in clinical material. In addition, red and white blood cells are not be harmed using methanol fixation, whereas heat fixation will distort or disrupt these cells. Passing the slide over a flame is also not recommended, since the heating process cannot be controlled. Methanol fixed slides have been shown to retain two to ten times as many cells than with heat fixation.⁽¹⁾ In addition, Gram-positive bacteria are much less likely to become over-decolorized when fixed with methanol rather than heat.⁽²⁾

STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

Storage: Upon receipt, store at 15-35°C away from direct light. Product should not be used if there are any signs of deterioration or if the expiration date has passed. Keep away from heat, sparks, open flames, and hot surfaces. Take precautions against static discharge.

The expiration date on the product label applies to the product in its intact packaging when stored as directed. The product may be used and tested up to the expiration date on the product label and incubated for the recommended incubation times as stated below.

Refer to the document "[Storage](#)" for more information.

PRECAUTIONS

This product is for *in vitro* diagnostic use only. It is to be used only by adequately trained and qualified laboratory personnel. Observe approved biohazard precautions and aseptic techniques. All laboratory specimens should be considered infectious and handled according to "standard precautions." The "Guidelines for Isolation Precautions" is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_isolation.html.

For additional information regarding specific precautions for the prevention of the transmission of all infectious agents from laboratory instruments and materials, and for recommendations for the management of exposure to infectious disease, refer to CLSI document M-29: *Protection of Laboratory Workers from Occupationally Acquired Infections: Approved Guideline*.

Sterilize all biohazard waste before disposal.

WARNING: This product may contain ingredients known or suspected to be carcinogenic or poisonous. Refer to the product label. When handling, use proper protective gear. Product may be toxic by inhalation, ingestion, or absorption.

PROCEDURE

1. Air-dry specimen.
2. Once fully dried, place a few drops of methanol on the slide for one minute, ensuring that the methanol covers the entire smear.
3. Drain off remaining methanol without rinsing.
4. Allow slide to adequately air dry prior to staining.
5. DO NOT HEAT FIX SLIDES BEFORE STAINING.

LIMITATIONS

Refer to the document "[Limitations of Procedures and Warranty](#)" for more information.

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

Standard microbiological supplies and equipment such as loops, swabs, applicator sticks, other culture media, incinerators, incubators, etc., as well as serological, biochemical, staining supplies, immersion oil, and reagents (e.g. Cat. nos. [GK400A](#), [Z95](#), or [Z96](#)), are not provided.

QUALITY CONTROL

USER QUALITY CONTROL

End users of commercially prepared staining supplies and reagents should perform QC testing in accordance with applicable government regulatory agencies, and in compliance with accreditation requirements. Hardy Diagnostics recommends that end users check for signs of deterioration and, if dictated by laboratory quality control procedures or regulation, perform quality control testing when applicable.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

QuickSlide™ Methanol (Methyl Alcohol) should appear clear and transparent in color.

REFERENCES

1. Minnerath, J., *et al.*, A Comparison of Heat Versus Methanol Fixation for Gram staining Bacteria, Department of Biology, Santa Mary's University of Minnesota, Winon, MN.
2. Mangels, *et al.* 1984. Methanol Fixation: An Alternative to heat Fixation of Smears Before Staining. *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease*; 2: 129-137.
3. Anderson, N.L., et al. *Cumitech 3B; Quality Systems in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory*, Coordinating ed., A.S. Weissfeld. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.
4. Isenberg, H.D. *Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook*, Vol. I, II & III. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.
5. Koneman, E.W., et al. *Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology*. J.B. Lippincott Company,

Philadelphia, PA.

6. Tille, P.M., et al. *Bailey and Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology*, C.V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, MO.

7. Jorgensen et al. *Manual of Clinical Microbiology*. American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.

8. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). [Individualized Quality Control Plan \(IQCP\)](#).

ATCC is a registered trademark of the American Type Culture Collection.

IFU-10709[A]



QuickSlide™, a Division of Hardy Diagnostics

3411 McNiel #302, Wichita Falls, TS, 76308, USA

Phone: (800) 295-9588 ext. 2

Website: www.HardyDiagnostics.com

Email: info@quickslide.com

[Ordering Information](#)

The Hardy Diagnostics manufacturing facility and quality management system is certified to ISO 13485.

Copyright© 1996 by Hardy Diagnostics. All rights reserved.

HDQA 2207J [D]