

EOSIN-NIGROSIN STAIN

DESCRIPTION

One-step eosin-nigrosin is a staining technique that assesses the vitality of a sperm sample when the initial motility is less than 25%. Nigrosin increases the contrast between the background and provides easier recognition of both viable (membrane-intact) and nonviable (membrane-damaged) spermatozoa. Eosin stains only the non-viable sperm, turning them a dark pink, whereas viable sperm appears white.

SPECIMEN PREPARATION

Staining must be performed immediately after motility is assessed using sperm from the same semen sample. Assess sperm vitality as soon as possible after liquefaction of the semen sample; approximately 30 minutes after collection.

Notes: there is a 30 minute to one hour window from the time of collection in which slide preparation for sperm vitality assessment should occur to avoid the possibility of compromising the sample.

STAINING PROCEDURE

Pre-label microscopic slide(s) with appropriate patient identifiers.

1. Mix fresh sample with thorough swirling before pipetting aliquots for staining.
2. Aliquote 30-50 µL sample in a small reagent tube.
3. Add 2-3 drops of Eosin-Nigrosin stain solution, close tube, gently swirl to mix, and wait 30 seconds.
4. Immediately place one drop of mixture on the pre-labeled slide. Prepare a smear and allow to air dry.
5. Coverslip dried slides with a compatible mounting medium and examine under 40x or 100x objective.

RESULTS

Viable sperm will have colorless or faint pink heads. Non-viable sperm will have red or dark pink heads. The background should be dark in color.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Cat. #	Description
5592	Eosin-Nigrosin Stain

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