

Preparation of frozen hearts

1. Anesthetize the mouse with Forane (Baxter, NDC 10019-360-60) vapor.
2. Dissect the mouse without cutting any blood vessels to avoid bleeding.
3. Collect the blood with a 1 ml syringe with 26 G^{3/8} needle through a cardiac puncture.
4. Perfuse the heart through the apex with 1 ml 1X sterile PBS.
5. Remove the heart from the body without hurting the ascending aorta.
6. Perfuse the heart again through the apex with another 5 ml 1X sterile PBS.
7. Remove the fat tissue around the aortic region
8. Cut the heart into upper and lower halves.
9. Embed the upper half of the heart in a Cryomold biopsy (Tissue-Tek 4565) facing the cut side down in OCT (Tissue-Tek, 4583) on dry ice.
10. Keep the heart wrapped in aluminum foil at -80°C until sectioning.