**CRESYL FAST VIOLET TECHNIQUE FOR NISSL**

**DESCRIPTION:** Cresyl violet is used to stain neurons in the brain and spinal cord. It is commonly used to show the Nissl bodies in the neurons and cell nuclei.

**FIXATION:** 4% paraformaldehyde

**SECTION:** 8µm paraffin wax sections

**STAINING SOLUTION**

Cresyl Fast Violet ----1g

Distilled water --------100 ml

Acetic acid -------------0.25 ml

**METHOD**

1. Dewax in Xylene – 2 mins
2. Dewax in Xylene – 2 mins
3. Dewax in Xylene – 2 mins
4. Wash in Absolute Alcohol – 2 mins
5. Wash in Absolute Alcohol – 2 mins
6. Wash in 90% Alcohol – 2 mins
7. Wash in 70% Alcohol – 2 mins
8. Wash in Running Water – 2 mins
9. Stain in cresyl fast violet solution for 20-30 minutes
10. Rinse in distilled water
11. Wash in 95% Alcohol – 2 mins or until excess stain is removed
12. Wash in Absolute Alcohol – 2 mins
13. Wash in Absolute Alcohol – 2 mins
14. Wash in Absolute Alcohol – 2 mins
15. Clear in Xylene – 2 mins
16. Clear in Xylene – 2 mins
17. Clear in Xylene – 2 mins
18. Mount slides with coverslips using DePeX

**RESULTS**

* Nissl substance - Purple/dark blue
* Neurones and cell nuclei - Purple/blue