

THE INNOVATOR

from ANATECH LTD. "the leader in innovative histology chemicals"

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FROM PATIENT TO EMBEDDING CENTER IN TWO HOURS OR LESS

The single biggest factor in health care today is cost. All too often, cutting costs means doing everything faster so that specimen turnaround time is reduced. Fixation time is usually the first to be sacrificed, with devastating results to specimen quality [for details, see *The Innovator*, 2(1), 1998]. The remainder of the tissue processing program cannot be reduced significantly with conventional processors. Now, however, there is a way to produce specimens of astounding quality in an incredibly short time span. The secret is microwave fixation and processing, with a new twist.

Microwave technology has been used in our field for nearly 20 years, but to date, few laboratories have developed fixation and processing protocols that yield high quality results on a consistent basis. Challenged by this problem, we began a research program to investigate the principles behind the technology, then developed methods to produce very high quality results in the shortest possible time, keeping costs to a minimum. The details are described in the following pages; the results just might blow you away.

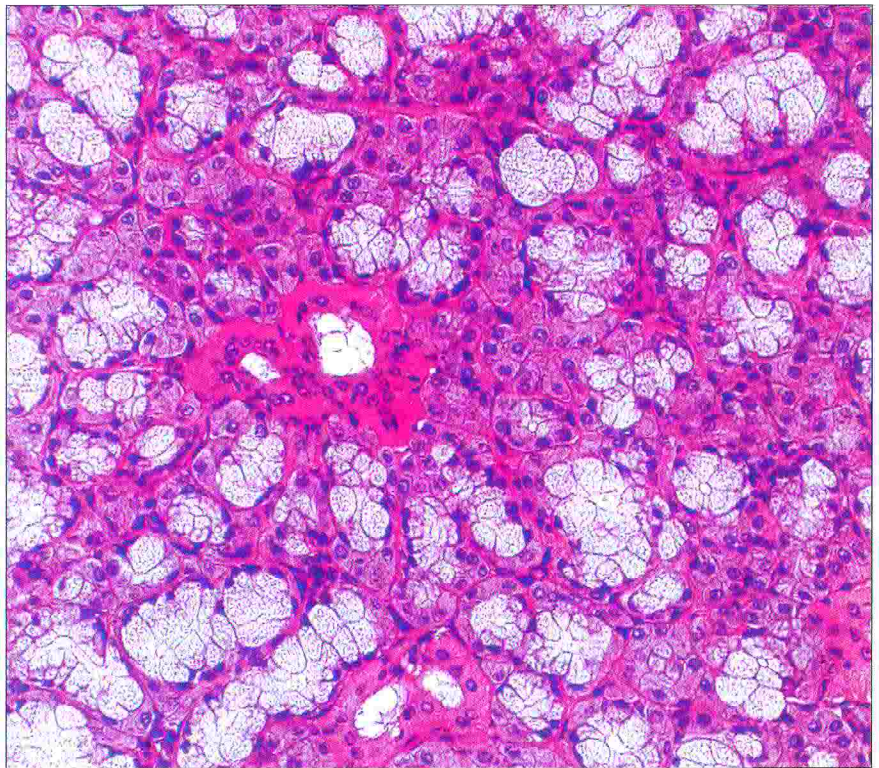


Figure 1.

Initial fixation: *Prefer*, 2 hours; postfixed in *Preserve™* and processed with 1 mm microwave schedule. Mixed salivary gland (raccoon), ANATECH Hematoxylin – Normal and Eosin. 20x

Welcome...

This issue of the *Innovator* covers some of our recent research into the emerging field of microwave processing. Many labs have not even considered this technology, but there are growing, compelling reasons to do so now. Competition from other labs, pressures for faster turnaround time, and increased workload all cry out for some

quantum leap away from conventional methods. Microwave fixation and processing is the answer, and it will cost you far less than a regular tissue processor.

Our story also shows what can be done when dedicated people and their independent companies pool their collective resources for a project. Steven Slap and Allan

Berger from Energy Beam Sciences sparked the interest, then made everything possible with their support.

Interested in our products? Visit our Web site (<http://www.net-link.net/anatech>) or browse through our illustrated Price List and Product Summary. The pictures, taken with Olympus photomicrography equipment, speak for themselves.