Haematoxylin and Eosin Stain Protocol

Haematoxylin and Eosin stain is the most common stain used in histopathology; this is because it gives a clear distinction between the nucleus and cytoplasm.

The Procedure for staining is shown below.

Firstly the sample is hydrated into decreasing concentrations of alcohol until left in water; this is called taking the sample to water.

1. Place Haematoxylin on the sample for 10 minutes
2. Rinse in distilled water
3. Place acid alcohol on the sample for 5-10 seconds – **no more** than that as the stain will be too faded
4. Rinse in distilled water
5. Place in Scott’s tap water (slightly alkali water) for 10 minutes – to blue the sample
6. Rinse in distilled water
7. Place Eosin on the sample for 10 minutes
8. Rinse in distilled water
9. Place in xylene
10. Dehydrate the sample in increasing concentrations of alcohol (opposite to above image)
11. Use DPX to stick over slip on sample and leave to dry