

- Aqueous solution of 2.5-3% potassium dichromate for 24 hours to act as mordant for better staining effects

### **Washing-out**

- The process of removing excess fixative from the tissue after fixation in order to improve staining
- 1. tap water-is used to remove:
- 2. 50-70% alcohol
- 3. alcoholic iodine

### **Factors that affect fixation of tissues**

#### **A. RETARDED BY:**

- 1. size and thickness of the tissue specimen
- 2. presence of mucus
- 3. presence of fat
- 4. presence of blood
- 5. cold temperature

#### **B. ENHANCED BY:**

- 1. size and thickness of tissues
- 2. agitation

### **FIXATION ARTIFACTS**

- Formalin pigment
- "cup" artifact



### **Microwave technique**

- Similar in mechanism to vacuum, oven (heat) and agitation to increase the movement of molecules and accelerate fixation