

Storing Working Antibodies

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Introduction

Antibodies are resistant to a broad range of mildly denaturing conditions, making long-term storage of antibodies relatively easy. Storage buffer for antibodies seldom need to be supplemented with glycerol or other stabilizing compounds (*e.g.* BSA) that are commonly added to help maintain the activity of purified proteins. The problem commonly encountered in storing antibodies is contamination of these solutions with bacteria or fungi. This can be prevented by the addition of antimicrobial agent, sodium azide, to 0.02%.

Materials

- 10% (w/v) sodium azide

Dissolve 1 g of sodium azide in 10 ml of H₂O and store at room temperature.

Memo: Sodium azide is highly poisonous: it blocks the cytochrome electron transport system.

Procedure

1. If there is no reason to avoid the use of sodium azide, add to 0.02-0.1%.
2. Store at 4°C.

Reference

Using Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York. 64, 466, 482.