

Brain Biopsy

Last updated: June 3, 2019

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SURGICAL TECHNIQUE, PERIOPERATIVE CARE – see p. Op310 >>	

TISSUE PROCESSING TECHNIQUES

Evaluation	Technique	Fixative	Staining
Cytological	Imprint/touch	Alcohol	Rapid H & E, Diff-Quik Papanicolaou
	Smear/squash		
Routine histological	Frozen section	Alcohol	Rapid H & E, metachrome B, special staining
	Paraffin section	Formalin, B5	
Special histological: histochemistry, immunohistochemistry	Frozen section	None	Enzymes, biochemical reactions
	Frozen or paraffin	Variable	Mono- or poly-clonal antibodies
Electron microscopy	Thick section	Glutaraldehyde/OsO ₄	Toluidine blue
	Thin section		Lead citrate/uranyl acetate

Frozen sections:

- may provide **specific diagnosis** in some cases (but in many situations definitive diagnosis can be made only after evaluation of all tissue specimens and with adjunctive studies).
- sometimes used to **guide resection** of mass lesion.

Ancillary studies:

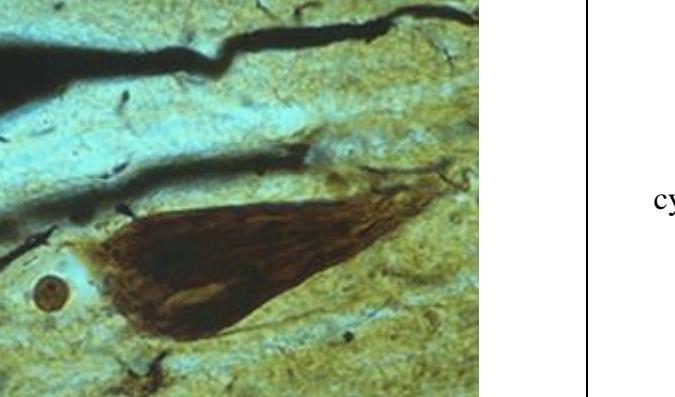
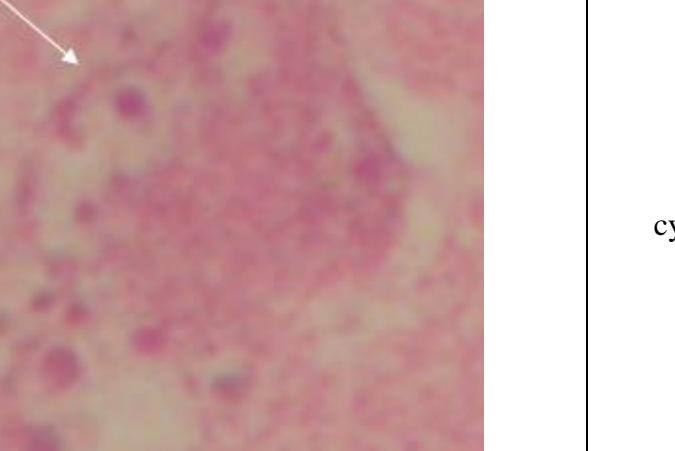
- 1) microbiology (e.g. bacterial, viral, fungal cultures)
- 2) cytogenetics (e.g. karyotype analysis)
- 3) molecular genetics (e.g. PCR)
- 4) biochemical analyses.

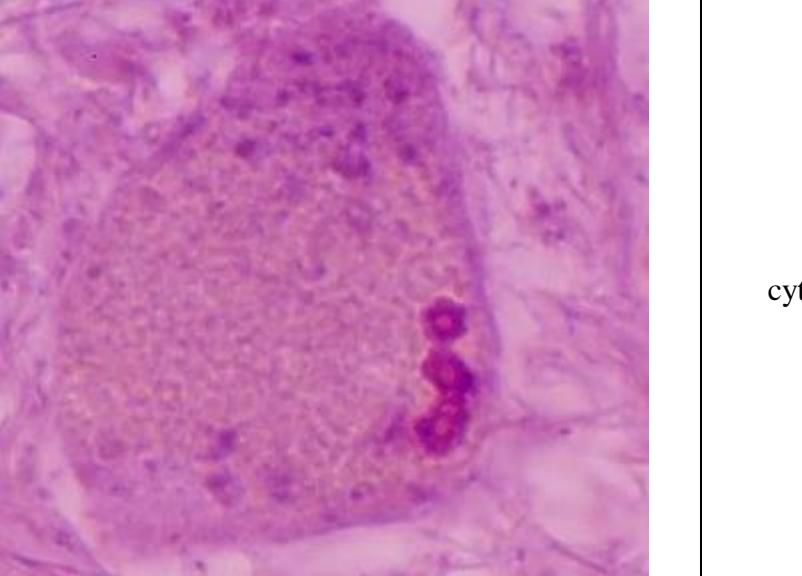
FINDINGS

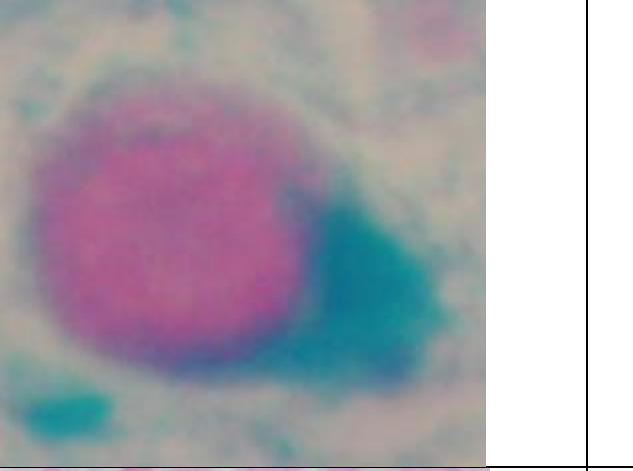
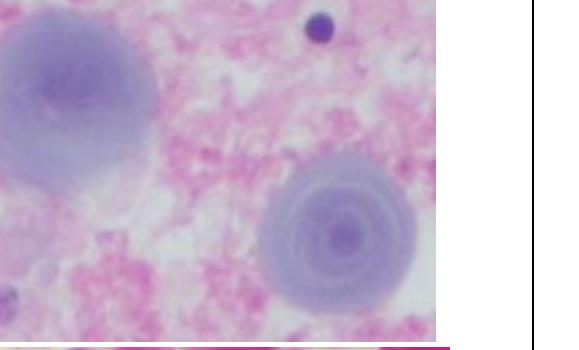
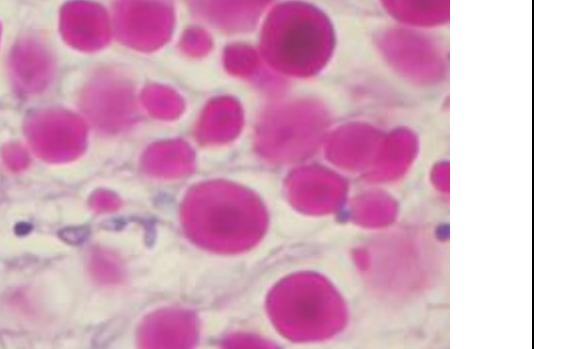
INCLUSIONS, BODIES

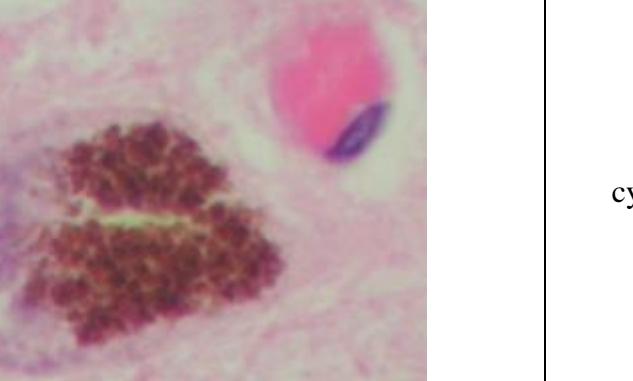
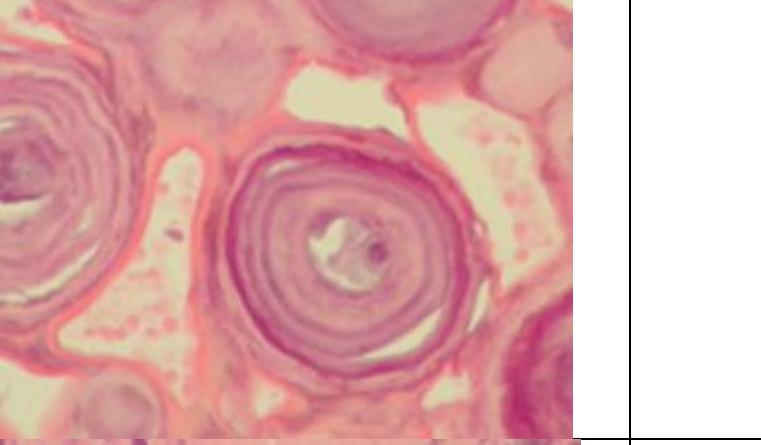
eosinophilic
basophilic
electron microscopy

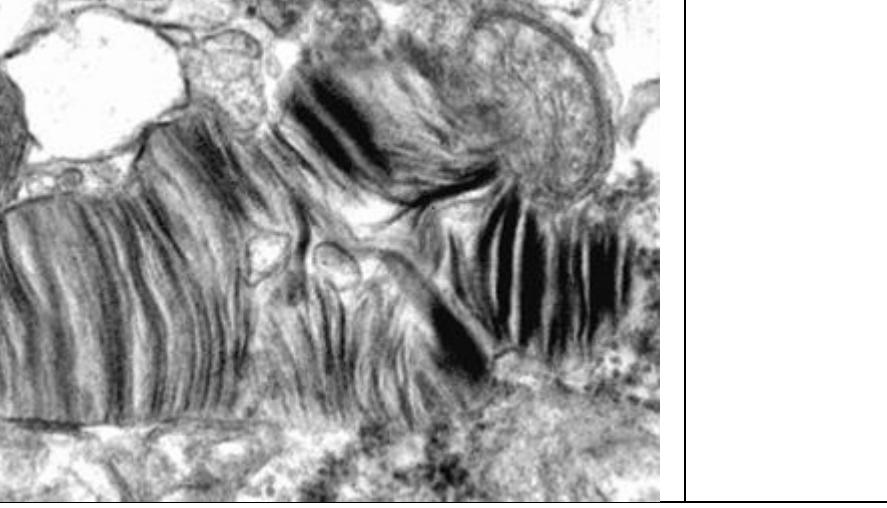
Disease	Inclusion name	Photo	Location (in cell)	Cells affected	Contents
Parkinson disease see p. Mov10 >>	LEWY bodies		cytoplasm	neurons	<i>neurofilament, tubulin, α-synuclein</i> and <i>ubiquitin</i>
Pick disease (frontotemporal dementia) see p. S11 >>	PICK bodies		cytoplasm	neurons	

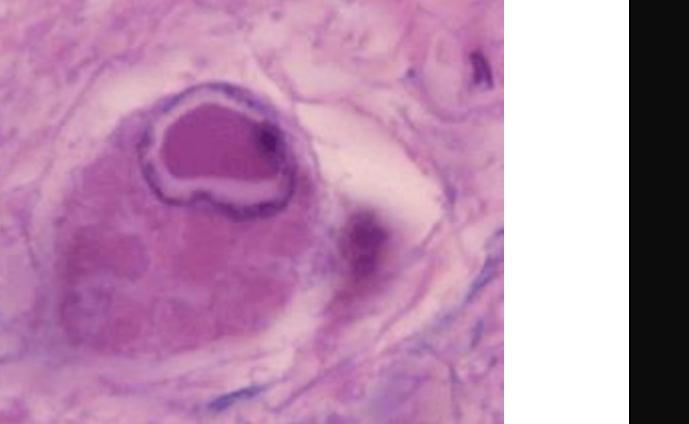
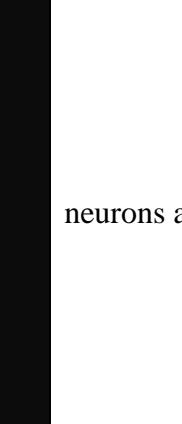
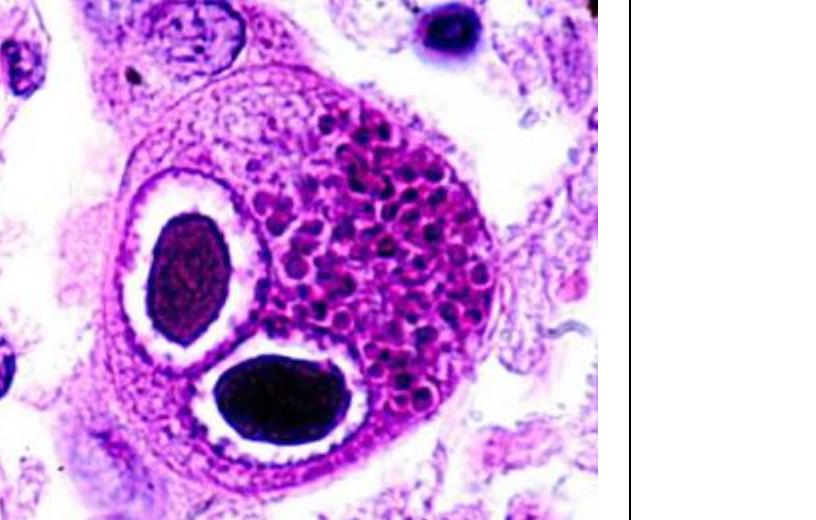
Alzheimer disease see p. S11 >>	Neurofibrillary tangles		cytoplasm	neurons	TAU protein
Normal aging, neurodegenerative disorders (Alzheimer's disease, Pick disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease)	HIRANO bodies		cytoplasm	neurons	<i>actin</i> and actin-related proteins; no ubiquitin!
Normal aging, neurodegenerative disorders (Alzheimer's disease)	SIMCHOWICZ bodies (granulovacuolar degeneration)		cytoplasm		unknown composition

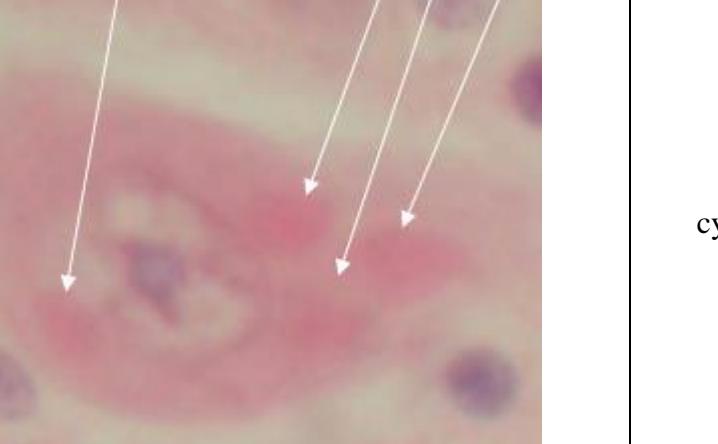
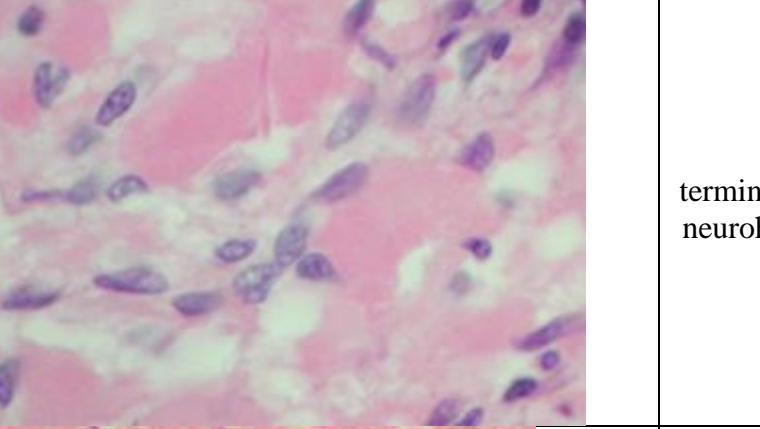
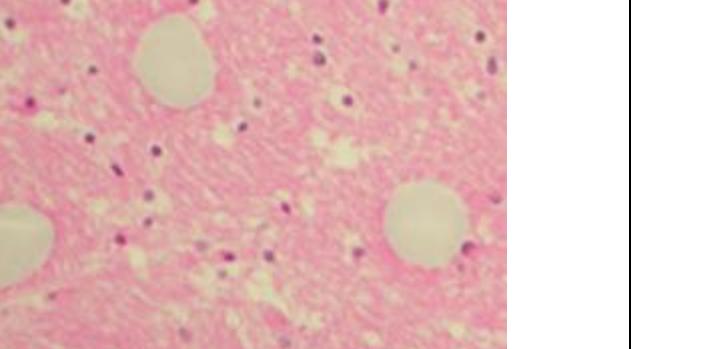
						
ALS see p. Spin21 >>	BUNINA bodies			cytoplasm	neurons	unknown composition

Familial myoclonic epilepsy	LAFORA bodies			cytoplasm	neurons	
Senile degenerative process	Corpora amylacea	H&E:				
		PAS:				

Age-associated degen. changes in substantia nigra	MARINESCO bodies		cytoplasm	neurons	ubiquitin?
Meningioma	Psammoma bodies				
Schwannoma	VEROCAY body		extracellular		

Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (s. cerebral sphingolipidosis)	Fingerprint bodies				
Lysosomal storage disorder, mucopolysaccharidoses I, II and III	Zebra bodies				

HSV, VZV	COWDRY type A			nucleus	neurons and glia	
CMV	“owl-eyes”					

Rabies see p. 262 (2a) >>	NEGRI bodies		cytoplasm	neurons	
Neurosecretory granules in dilated	HERRING bodies		terminal axons of neurohypophysis	neurons	
Artifact of formalin fixation	BUSCAINO bodies				

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