

Cadaveric head preparation is very important prior to dissection. The desired properties are: Good long-term structural preservation with minimal distortion, no desiccation, no bacterial or fungal growth, and minimal environmental chemical hazards ¹⁾.

The embalming fluid mixture used to preserve the cadaver is an important factor in achieving both good dissection properties, and long term preservation. **Formaldehyde** has been the main component in embalming fluids since the late 19th century due to its excellent preservation properties, low cost, and ready availability ²⁾

On the other hand, formaldehyde solutions have a toxic smell, produce undesired tissue rigidity, and there are major risks of malignancy development from formaldehyde exposure ³⁾.

¹⁾

Coleman R, Kogan I. An improved low-formaldehyde embalming fluid to preserve cadavers for anatomy teaching. J Anat. 1998;192:443-6.

²⁾

Mayer R. California: Appleton and Lange; 1990. Theory and Practice: Embalming.

³⁾

Hayes RB, Blair A, Stewart PA, Herrick RF, Mahar H. Mortality of U.S. embalmers and funeral directors. Am J Ind Med. 1990;18:641-52.

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