

Periaqueductal gray (PAG) dissection

Important Note: The following dissections are performed using a dissection microscope, with brain on filter paper moistened with cold RNase-free 1 X PBS on top of a Petri dish filled with ice. All surgical instruments are cleaned with RNaseZap in between each animal and brain region.

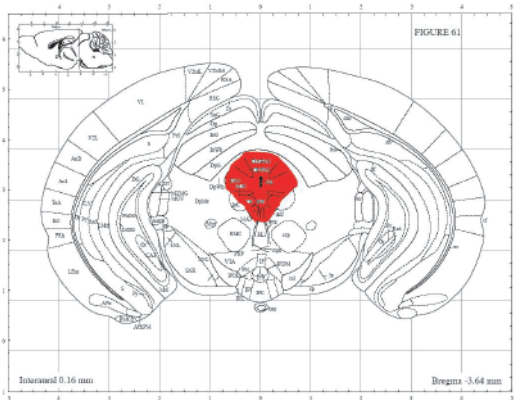


Fig. 1. Periaqueductal gray in red

Method:

Remove brain from skull and place dorsal side up (Fig. 2). Using two paintbrushes, remove cerebellum by gently brushing it off (dashed line in Fig. 2). Hold the brain gently with one paintbrush while gently brushing backwards with the other.

Using a scalpel blade, make a coronal cut approximately halfway across the remaining brain (Fig. 3). Keep the caudal part and place it caudal side up. This cut is made in order to be able to view the PAG from the caudal side.

Using small scissors, cut the area marked in Fig. 4. Insert scissors approximately 2 mm into the tissue.

Immediately place tissue into a round bottom 14-ml Falcon tube, snap freeze on dry ice, and store at -80 degrees Celcius.

