

# Pons and Medulla Dissection

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

## Method:

Remove cerebellum (Fig.1) by pushing colliculi forward and cutting both cerebellar peduncles (inferior colliculi have been removed to better visualize peduncles).



Fig.1

Continuing to push inferior colliculi forward, use micro scissors to cut straight down to remove the hindbrain (Figs.2 and 3).

Fig.2 shows a black line illustrating where to push colliculi forward, and where to make the cut to free hindbrain. Fig.3 shows the hindbrain removed.

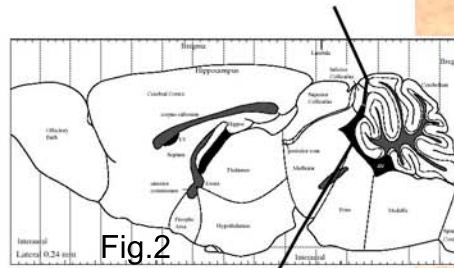


Fig.2

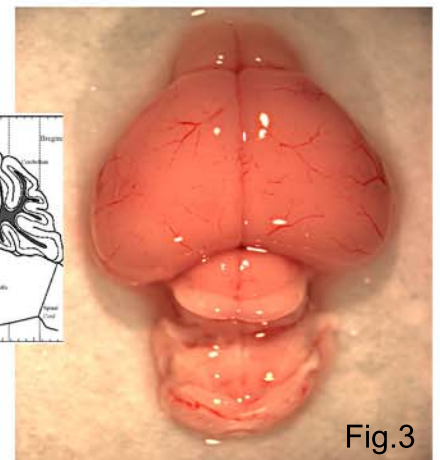


Fig.3

Flip over the hindbrain that was removed in Fig.3, so that the caudal end is facing you, ventral side up, as shown in Fig.4.

Fig.5 shows the location of the pons and medulla areas.

Make a cut using a no. 10 scalpel, perpendicular to the cutting surface, to separate the pons from the medulla (shown as dotted line on Fig.4). If necessary, make a second cut below the medulla to remove the spinal cord (Fig.5).

Fig.6 shows the pons separated from the medulla. The spinal cord is not shown.

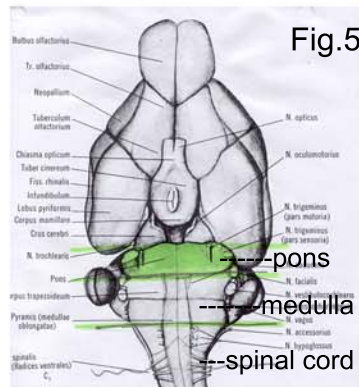


Fig.5

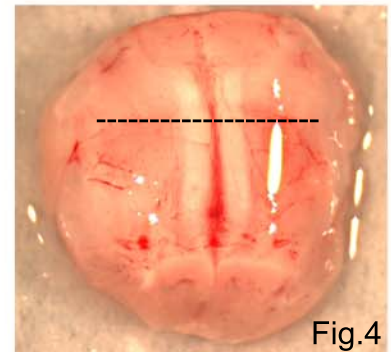


Fig.4

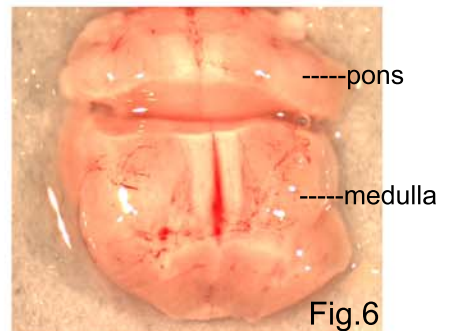


Fig.6

Immediately place tissue into the bottom of a 15-ml Falcon tube, and immediately snap freeze on dry ice.