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Giemsa Staining Method

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Giemsa Staining Method*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C85598.

A microscopy staining method that utilizes Giemsa, a mixture of ethylene blue and eosin, which forms purplish-black crystals when dried. This stain preferentially binds to the phosphate groups of DNA and aggregates at areas with an increase in adenine-thymine binding, thus leading to chromosomal staining patterns that lend themselves to g-banding analysis. Additionally Giemsa can be used as a differential stain to determine microbial cell adherence to human cells as well as in the diagnosis of malaria, spirochete, and protozoal infections.