The Facts about Formaldehyde:
What Every Anatomist Should Know

HSEB gross lab; CO Architects

Chair: Rebecca Fisher
The Facts about Formaldehyde: What Every Anatomist Should Know

- Known irritant of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin

- Overexposure can cause allergic reactions such as dermatitis and asthma

- Recently recognized as a known human carcinogen (National Toxicology Program & International Agency for Research on Cancer)

*Dissection Table Hazard Label; photo by F. Demer*
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➢ Learning Objectives:

1) Describe the documented cancer risks associated with formaldehyde exposure

2) Define OSHA guidelines for formaldehyde exposure in the workplace and how to properly conduct air testing in the gross lab

3) Compare and contrast the pros and cons of various embalming solutions (formaldehyde-based and alternatives)

4) Discuss engineering controls that can be implemented in the gross lab to reduce formaldehyde exposure
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➢ Ultimate goal: advocate for safe conditions at your home institutions

www.anatomy.org (Knowledge Center: Teaching and Training Tools: Gross Anatomy Lab Design)