

INJECTION PADS

An injection pad is a glass coverslip or microscope slide with a layer of 2% (w/v) agarose (in water) on the center of it. The worms that are going to be injected are transferred to these pads - the agarose layer will be responsible for immobilizing them for the procedure. Some people prefer to make them using coverslips, but Renee prefers microscope slides because they are easier to manipulate. There should always be a dish with injection pads near the microscope for general lab use. However, if you want to make your own injection pads, use the following procedure:

1. Prepare boiling 2% agarose in water (usually 10 mL of water with 0.2 g of agarose).
2. Place 1-4 drops (using a plastic pipet) onto the center of a long and thin glass coverslip or microscope slide.
3. Immediately flatten the drop with another coverslip or microscope slide.
4. Let this dry for a few minutes and then slide the coverslip off.
5. Label the right side of the upward-facing coverslip with an 'R'.
6. Let the slides dry for at least one day before use.