

GENERAL DISSECTION HINTS

The term "dissection" means more than merely cutting your specimen apart. It is a refined method of seeking, exposing, identifying, and studying the internal anatomy. It helps to bring into view structures not readily seen.

Use your *scalpel* sparingly. Rely primarily on your dissecting needles. They are especially helpful in tracing blood vessels and nerves, and in separating muscles. As organs are exposed, study the associated blood vessels and nerves. Leave them intact unless directed to do otherwise. Check often with the photos in the manual. Confirm the names and location of body parts of your specimen.

When using your *scissors*, advance with the rounded, blunt end, not the sharp pointed end. Your *forceps* should be strong, able to hold on to thick muscle, yet fine enough to grasp narrow nerves. It is advisable to have more than one type of forceps. Move organs aside with your fingers or with a blunt probe.

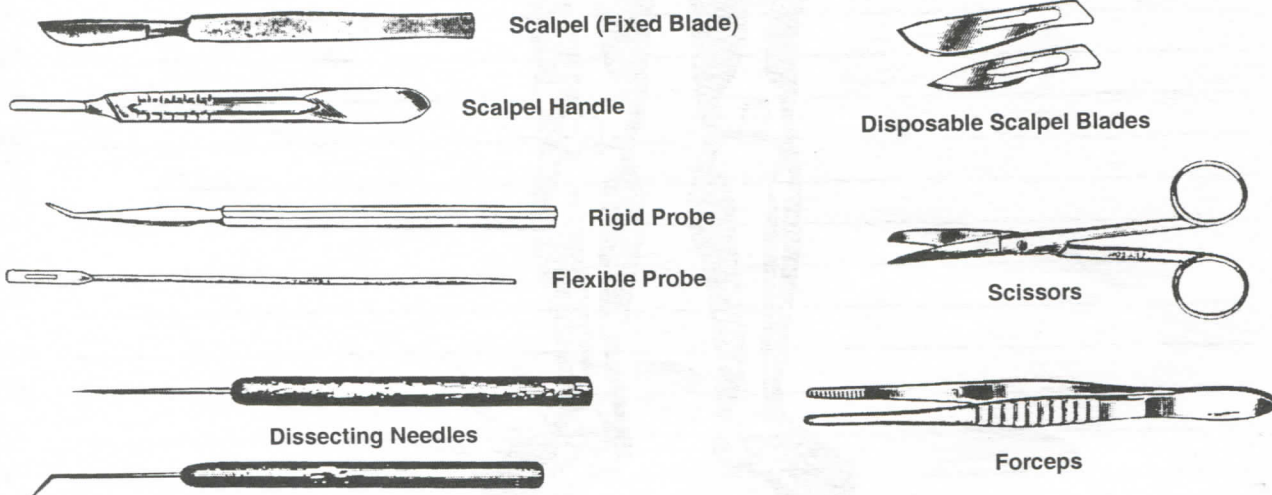
Greater caution must be exercised in dissecting a fetal animal than an adult animal. The organs and tissues have not yet fully developed. They are therefore, smaller, differently shaped, and more delicate than those of the adult. It will mean using greater care in cutting the soft thin skin, not cutting any of the muscles below the skin, if they are to be studied. A careless movement of finger, scissor, or scalpel may tear, cut, or destroy important structures.

In order to protect yourself against the effects of the preservative solution upon your hands, it is suggested that you apply lanolin or vaseline at the outset or wear thin rubber gloves. Line your dissection pan with paper towels in order to absorb excess fluids, as a storage for structures removed, and to facilitate cleaning up at the close of the session.

At the end of each class, wrap the fetal pig in wet paper towels before returning it to the plastic bag. Twist the top of the bag and close tightly with a rubber band. These procedures will protect your specimen from drying out between dissection sessions. Remove the paper towels lining the dissection pan, together with any structures removed, and discard.

In order to further preserve the softness and texture of pig muscles and organs, apply the following solution with a one inch paint brush at the close of each session:

Carbolic Acid (Phenol) crystals	—	30 grams
Glycerin	—	250 ml.
Water	—	1000 ml.



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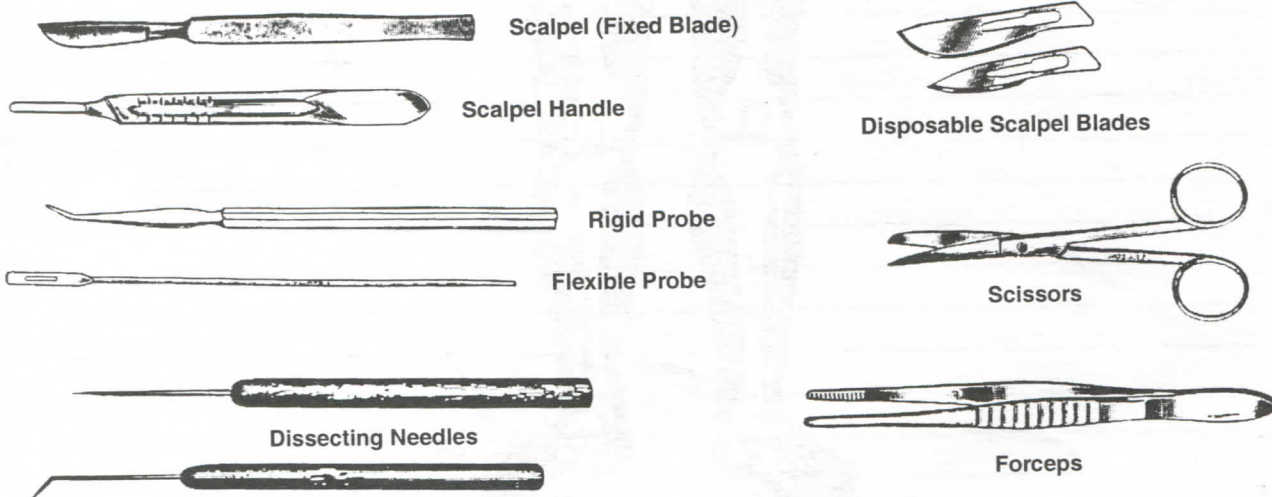
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