Decalcification

Process of removing lime salts or calcium salts from bone

Makes bone **flexible** and **easy to cut**

Adjusts the hard substance of bones to the softness of paraffin embedding medium.

Specimen: Bone, Teeth. Calcified Tumors, Calcified Heart Valves

Nitric Acid

Purpose of Decalcification

Facilitate cutting of bone

Remove bone dust and cellular debris

Factors Affecting Decalcification

Size and thickness of specimen	Dense Bone: 2-5 cm Soft Bones: 4-6 cm
Compactness and Density of Bone	Ideal time: 24-48 hrs Very Dense: =>14 days
Concentration and Amount of Fluid	20:1
Temperature	Room Temperature
Agitation	Stirring from time to time

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