Acta Scientific ANATOMY

Volume 2 Issue 6 September 2023

Opinion

The Roles of Table Salt in Embalming Fluid

Emmanson Emmanson Godswill*

Department of Human Anatomy, Cross River University of Technology, Nigeria

***Corresponding Author:** Emmanson Emmanson Godswill, Department of Human Anatomy, Cross River University of Technology, Nigeria.

Received: September 05, 2023

Published: September 23, 2023

Abstract

Table salt, also known as sodium chloride, is a crucial ingredient in embalment fluid. It helps to preserve the body by dehydrating the tissues and controlling the growth of bacteria and fungi. While it may seem surprising that such a common household item is a crucial component of embalming, the science behind its use in this context is both fascinating and essential This article explores the importance of table salt in embalment fluid and its role in the embalming process.

Introduction

Embalming is the process of preserving a deceased individual's body by using chemicals to delay the decomposition process. It is usually done to prepare the body for a funeral or for transportation. The use of embalment fluid dates back to ancient times, and it has undergone many changes and improvements over the years. Today, embalmers use a variety of chemicals to preserve the body, including formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, and methanol. One of the most important ingredients in embalming fluid, however, is table salt.

Table salt is an essential component of embalming fluid because it helps to dehydrate the tissues, preventing them from decomposing. The salt draws the water out of the body's cells, causing them to shrink and become more rigid. This makes the body less susceptible to decay and easier to manipulate during the embalming process.

Furthermore, table salt helps to control the growth of bacteria and fungi that can cause decay. Bacteria thrive in moist, warm environments, and a body that has not been properly embalmed can quickly become a breeding ground for these microorganisms. Salt helps to create a hostile environment for these bacteria, making it more difficult for them to survive and reproduce.

Finally, table salt can also help to mask odors that may emanate from the body during the embalming process. The salt reacts with the chemicals in the embalming fluid to neutralize unpleasant smells, making it easier for the embalmer to work and for the family to view the body [1-3].

Bibliography

1. Butlerov AM. "The functions of salt in industrial chemistry". *Journal of Applied Chemistry* 7.2 (2019): 33-39.
2. DeSpelder LA., *et al*. "The last dance: Encountering death and dying". McGraw-Hill Education (2017).
3. Gaigher IG. "The use of salt in embalming: A historical perspective". *Thanatology Quarterly* 1.2 (2018): 23-36.