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DNA profiling from fetus and placenta preserved in formalin

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Cells in fetus and placenta like other biological materials contain the DNA. During the termination of pregnancy, fetus and placenta are preserved in formalin and normal saline in sexual assault cases. The preservation depends from case to case and availability of preservatives in hospitals. It is a common presumption that foetuses preserved in formalin are of no use for DNA profiling in forensic cases as formalin is an inhibitor. It is recommended by several researchers to preserve the foetus or placenta in normal saline instead of formalin. Study aimed to obtain the appropriate quantity of DNA from the samples preserved in formalin. 50 samples of fetus and placenta preserved in formalin were analyzed. Our results indicate that a proper manual removal of formalin may generate an appropriate quantity of DNA. DNA profiling from fetus and placenta can be preserved in formalin up to one year.

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