

August 21, 2007

Laboratory Number 2 Dissection of the avian inner ear Donna Fekete

Dissection of the chicken basilar papilla, appropriate for embryonic day 10 - postnatal week 1 (Ulrike Sienknect and Donna Fekete):

- remove lower jaw (work from a ventral view)
- hold embryo head with forceps between the eyes
- clip off the left and right jaw joints
- remove all soft tissue in a superficial, horizontal plane manner beginning at the palate moving towards the spinal cord
- this way get to the point where the plain cartilage housing the cochlear duct is exposed with no soft tissue left on its surface
- at this point the lagena should be visible on each side of the midline
- clean up soft tissue form this view laterally, following the cochlear duct until seeing the base and the outer ear meatus
- don't touch the temporal bone (cartilage at all at this time to keep the ear safe as long as possible)
- remove the tympanic membrane carefully to expose the columella
- grab the columella (softly to not break it) and pull it off to remove the footplate from the oval window