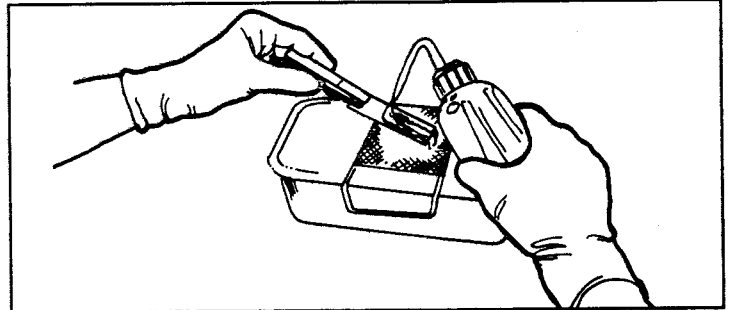


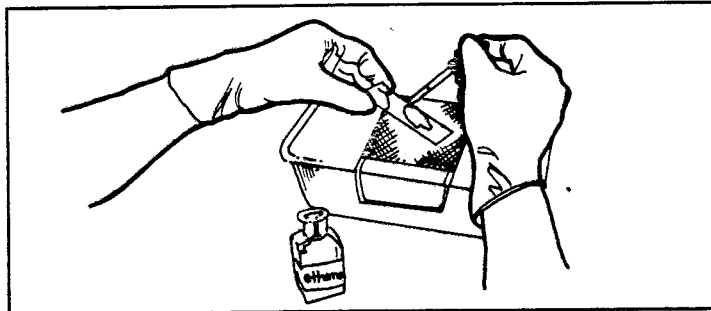
**FIGURE 3-8a Flood the Smear with Crystal Violet**

Place your slide with its smears on the staining rack. Flood the smear with crystal violet and let it stand for one minute. Hold the slide with a slide holder to minimize staining of your hands. Wearing latex gloves is also a good idea.



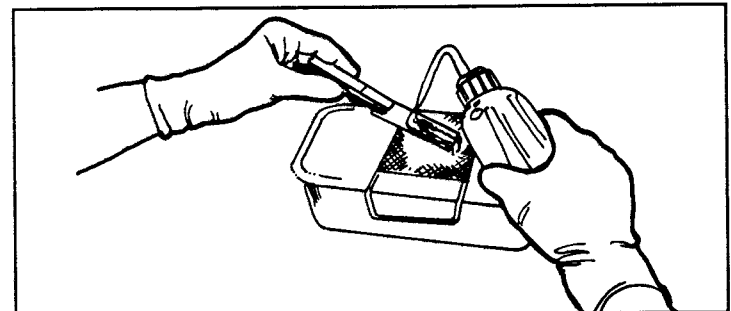
**FIGURE 3-8b Rinse with Water**

Tilt the slide and rinse away excess crystal violet by directing a stream of water towards the top of the slide and allowing the water to run down across the smear's surface. Avoid spraying the water directly on the smear as this may dislodge your specimens.



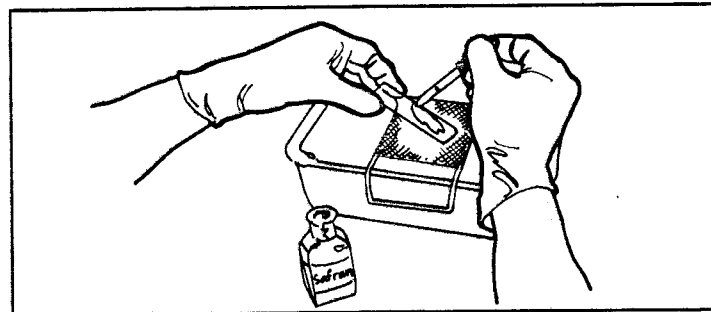
**FIGURE 3-8c Flood the Smear with Iodine**

Cover the smear with iodine solution for at least one minute.



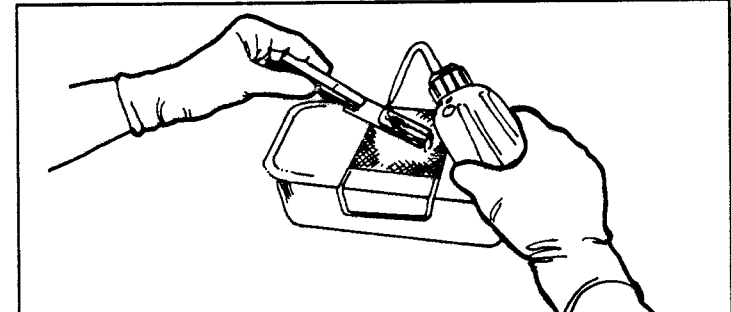
**FIGURE 3-8d Rinse Again with Water**

Gently wash off the excess iodine as in Figure 3-8b.



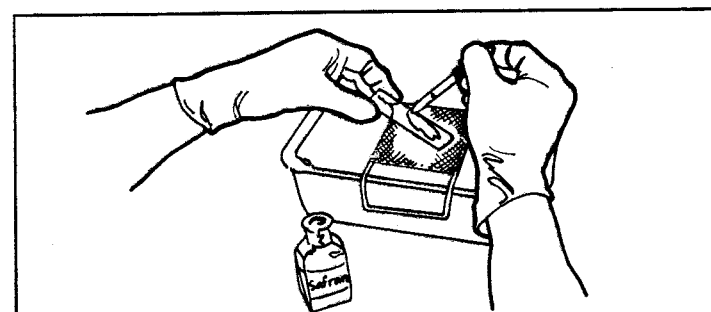
**FIGURE 3-8e Decolorize**

Tilt the slide and allow the alcohol to run across the smear. Stop decolorizing when the run-off is clear, but no longer than 30 seconds.



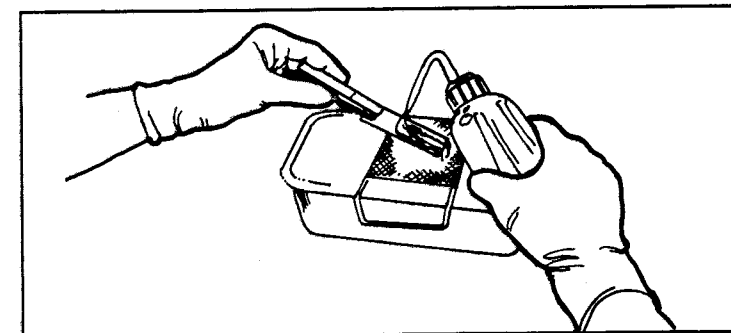
**FIGURE 3-8f Rinse Again with Water**

Immediately rinse off the alcohol with water as in Figure 3-8b. The longer you delay, the greater the likelihood of overdecolorizing.



**FIGURE 3-8g Counterstain with Safranin**

Cover the smear with safranin for one minute.



**FIGURE 3-8h Rinse Again with Water**

Gently wash off the excess safranin as in Figure 3-8b.