







12. Optionally, dab the surface of the tadpole covering the developing thymus with a small piece of tissue paper to dry the skin.

*If thymectomizing later in the optimal window (e.g., day 7 post-spawn), using the dissection needle to rupture the skin and provide better exposure of the thymus before administering the electrical pulse can increase accuracy and improve efficiency of ablation.*

13. Use the microcautery apparatus needle to burn the bilateral thymus organ away on one side of the tadpole:

- ... While looking through the microscope, lower the needle until it is visible.
- ... Place the needle on the tadpole near the thymus.
- ... Press the foot pedal to administer an electrical pulse.

*Ideally, the thymus should be burned with only one quick pulse on the thymic lobe (Fig. 1). If the thymus is still visible, a second pulse can be administered; however, this decreases the chance of survival and should be avoided when possible.*



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follicular antigen presentation (Neely et al. 2018). The frog thymectomy model has been used for decades (Horton and Manning 1972) and is now an established model of adaptive immunity absent the effect of T cells in a metamorphosing tetrapod vertebrate (see, e.g., Sakuraoka and Tochinai 1993; Ono and Tochinai 1995; Kinney et al. 1996; Robert et al. 1997; Horton et al. 2003; Mashoof et al. 2013).

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## Larval Thymectomy of *Xenopus laevis*

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