

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE

Specimens must be labeled with two patient identifiers i.e. patient full name and DOB – specimens without two identifiers will be delayed until two identifiers are present. Specimen must be accompanied by a completed requisition – information on requisition must match specimen label.

FIXED SPECIMEN (FOR ROUTINE PROCESSING)

Tissue should be placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin immediately upon removal. Select the appropriate sized formalin vial (15 to 20 times the volume of tissue). Fasten lid securely to prevent leakage.

FRESH SPECIMEN

A fresh specimen must arrive without fixative in an empty specimen cup, saline, empty biohazard bag or wrapped in saline soaked gauze. If a fresh specimen is not going to be immediately transported to the laboratory, it must be refrigerated. Refrigeration is not optimal. If there are transport issues associated with a fresh specimen, please contact the laboratory.

The following specimens should be sent to the laboratory FRESH (without fixative):

- Hardware/Foreign bodies (empty biohazard bag or empty specimen cup)
- Kidney biopsy – contact laboratory prior to collection
- Large specimens i.e. amputations (biohazard bag)
- Lymphoid tissue/lymph node – if diagnosis is suspicious for lymphoma/leukemia, submit fresh for flow cytometry (saline or saline soaked gauze)
- Mammography guided needle localization (see Breast Specimen below)
- Muscle biopsy – contact laboratory prior to collection
- OB/GYN specimens i.e. placenta and fallopian tubes (formalin not available in MCH)
 - o placenta for storage (biohazard bag labeled with collection date)
 - o placenta/fallopian tubes for exam - (empty specimen container labeled with green FOR PATHOLOGY EXAM sticker)
- Products of conception/fetus < 20 weeks – if chromosome analysis is desired, submit fresh – **Mayo Clinic Informed Consent for Genetic Testing form** required
- Renal calculi (empty specimen cup)
- Skin for direct immunofluorescence (see Skin below)
- Tissue for intraoperative consultation (refer to Intraoperative Consultation)

BREAST SPECIMEN

Breast specimens must be placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin immediately upon removal. Time removed from patient and time placed in formalin MUST be documented on the requisition in all breast cases. Fresh specimens sent to radiology must have the “time removed from patient” indicated on the requisition.

SKIN – DIRECT IMMUNOFLOURESCENCE (DIF)

Submit tissue fresh (saline soaked gauze) or in Michel's (Zeus) fixative (refer to Direct Immunofluorescence – FITC). DIF is unable to be performed on formalin fixed tissue.