

UW MEDICINE

NEUROPATHOLOGY

Harborview Medical Center

Department of Pathology, Neuropathology Division

TELE: 206-744-6315, FAX 206-897-4688

<http://www.pathology.washington.edu/patient-care/neuropath>

MUSCLE BIOPSY - FRESH

Instructions for Tissue Preparation, Packaging and Shipping

Human Tissue: Always use universal precautions

1. NOTIFY THE NEUROPATHOLOGY HISTOLOGY LABORATORY

Please call 206-744-3910 at least 24 hours before the biopsy is performed. The specimen should arrive in our laboratory between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday (no later than 4pm). If a planned biopsy is cancelled/postponed, please let us know.

2. SPECIMEN SPECIFICATIONS

The muscle biopsy specimen should be a longitudinal piece of muscle 0.8 to 1.0 cm in diameter (just thicker than a pencil) and at least 3 cm in length. If the initial sample is too small, additional should be taken.

The surgeon should be instructed to place the specimen on a tongue blade or stiff paper and cover the muscle with Telfa or gauze moistened with saline. The specimen must **NOT** be immersed in saline. Muscle clamps should **NOT** be used unless the surgeon requires their use. Do **NOT** suture muscle to the tongue blade.

3. FRESH SPECIMEN

- **If specimen was not submitted on stiff material and covered with saline moistened gauze, then do this now.** (Place the specimen on a cardboard, stiff paper or tongue blade. Cover the specimen with gauze or Telfa moistened with saline.)
- Do not immerse specimen in saline or water.
- Place the specimen with the cardboard or tongue blade in a container (Petri dish or specimen jar). Use a separate container if there are multiple specimens.
- Place the container in a plastic bag (zip-lock type) and carefully seal it.
- Place the bagged specimen in a container with **wet (regular) ice** enough to last transport.

4. COMPLETE NEUROPATHOLOGY SERVICE REQUEST FORM

Complete this form carefully to avoid possible delay in processing or results. Provide **Clinical Information and telephone number for the clinician**. Be sure that the specimen is labeled with patient name, patient number, hospital, date and specimen description. Please also send medical history including the history and physical (H&P) from the surgeon and clinic note from neurologist, rheumatologist, or primary care provider who requested the biopsy. Other clinical information may also be sent if pertinent.

If a preliminary telephone report is desired, indicate so and include the name and phone number of the physician to be contacted.

5. SHIPPING TISSUE

Important: Delivery must be arranged to arrive before 4 pm Monday-Friday.

By Cab or Courier: (Monday-Friday)

HMC Pathology, Room 2NJ-244 Neuropath

PATHOLOGY OFFICE RECEPTION (744-3910 or x6315)

908 Jefferson St, 2nd floor

Seattle, WA 98104

206-744-3910

LABEL ALL PACKAGES: "DIAGNOSTIC TISSUE SPECIMEN" NEUROPATHOLOGY 744-3910 or 744-6315

Hand deliver to staff in Pathology office - 2NJ-244

6. TELEPHONE CALL

Call 206-744-3910 to inform Neurohistology lab that shipment is coming.

For Fresh Tissue make sure you speak to someone.

7. QUESTIONS?

Call Neuropath Lab during business hours (206-744-3910).

After hours call the hospital paging operator (206-744-3000) and ask that the Neuropathology Fellow to be paged.