

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>

NERVE BIOPSY – FIXED

Instructions for Tissue Preparation, Packaging and Shipping

Human Tissue: Always use universal precautions

1. NOTIFY NEUROPATHOLOGY HISTOLOGY LAB

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 nerve biopsy specimen should be at least 3 cm long (there is no functional reason to have a shorter specimen because nerve function is lost for any length of nerve removed).

The surgeon should be instructed to place the specimen on a tongue blade or stiff paper and cover the nerve with telfa or gauze moistened with saline. **The specimen must NOT be immersed in saline.**

3. DIVIDING THE NERVE SPECIMEN

The specimen will be divided in two parts:

➤ **1/3 of specimen: For embedding in plastic and possible electron microscopy**

From the 3.0 cm biopsy of nerve on the tongue blade cut off about 1.0 cm. To avoid crush artifact, use care to make a clean cut without damaging the fragile nerve (we use a double edge razor blade broken in half). Place in EM fixative (eg Trump's or Karnovsky's).

Note: If total specimen is shorter than 3.0 cm, then you should still use at least 0.5 cm here.

Note: EM fixatives should be stored in refrigerator.

➤ **2/3 of specimen: For formalin fixation/light microscopy/teasing**

Leave remaining piece of the nerve on tongue blade or stiff paper and fix by immersion in buffered formalin. In our lab this will be divided into pieces for paraffin embedding and for nerve fiber "teasing".

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.

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

5. SHIPPING

No ice is necessary. **Important:** Delivery must be arranged **to arrive before 4 pm**.

Overnight or Next Day Service (deliver Mon-Thurs only)

HMC Pathology, 2NJ-244 Neuropath
RECEIVING DOCK
908 Jefferson St
Seattle, WA 98104
206-744-3910

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

LABEL ALL PACKAGES:

"DIAGNOSTIC TISSUE SPECIMEN" NEUROPATHOLOGY 744-3910 or 744-6315
Hand deliver to staff in Pathology office - 2NJ-244

6. REMEMBER TO CALL

Call 206-744-3910 to inform Neuropath lab that a shipment is coming. For Fresh Tissue make sure you speak to someone.

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.