

Surgical Pathology Specimen Collection Guide

Surgical Pathology Examinations:

A Surgical Pathology Requisition or electronic order in the EMR must be utilized for all specimens submitted. Complete the specimen requisition in its entirety; the requisition must contain the patient's name, address, insurance information, DOB, MRN, source and laterality of the specimen, date and time of collection, clinical findings, pre- or post-operative diagnosis and must be signed the performing provider or designee. Label the patient's specimen container with the patient's name, DOB, MRN, date of collection, source and laterality of the specimen. Specimens with the accompanying Surgical Pathology requisition are to be delivered by courier, staff or are picked up by Pathology staff member from the different departments.



Routine Surgical Pathology Collection and Submission of Specimens:

The specimen must be placed in a fixative to preserve the tissue from autolysis, as soon as possible after removal from the body, unless other arrangements have been made with the Pathology staff. All specimens submitted for routine Surgical Pathology are to be placed in 10% formalin. Exceptions or special handling are listed below.

Specimens Received Fresh (Unfixed) for Surgical Pathology:

Specimens that are too large for a specimen container or are required to be unfixed are to be brought directly to the Pathology department, or if at an off-site location will need transported by the courier. Keep the specimen refrigerated until transported, during transport and after transport. Place specimen in Pathology department refrigerator when it arrives in the Pathology department.



Lymphoma Workup / Flow Cytometry:

Specimens for Lymphoma workup are to be collected fresh, in a container with a saline soaked gauze or in RPMI solution (pink fluid) and immediately sent to the Pathology laboratory. If it is after hours, or Pathology staff are not available, please deliver the specimen to Specimen Management at LGH laboratory. The RPMI fluid can be refrigerated for up to 72 hours. RPMI vials are available upon request from the Pathology department.

Surgical Pathology Specimen Collection Guide

Frozen Section / Gross Examination:

Pathology requests prior notification for performing frozen sections. During regular department hours M-F 8-5, call the Pathology Office (within LGH dial 150-3000) or (outside LGH dial 544-4934). After hours, call the on-call pathologist, before the procedure begins and give an estimated arrival time of the specimen for frozen section or gross examination. Complete the white section of the **Report Of Tissue Examination At Operation** form and a phone number the results can be called to after the pathologist rendered a report. Deliver frozen sections or gross examinations to the Frozen Section room immediately after removing the specimen from the patient. Results will be called to the physician / surgeon as soon as they are available.

Breast Specimens (Biopsies, Lumpectomies, Mastectomies):

It is a regulatory requirement that all breast specimens must have the excision time and the time placed in formalin recorded on the requisition and/or the specimen container/s. All breast core biopsies with calcifications should have the cores placed in a plastic cassette; place the cassette back in the specimen's container. All breast specimens are to be treated as a RUSH specimen to ensure the proper fixation time. Mark the biohazard specimen bag as a "RUSH" and deliver to pathology or courier pick up site as quickly as possible.



Direct Immunofluorescence:

Specimens for direct Immunofluorescence should be collected and placed in Zeus fixative or Michel's fixative for send out to a reference lab. The Zeus fixative can be obtained from the Pathology department. Keep specimen refrigerated after placing in Zeus fixative.



Renal Biopsies for Send Out to Arkana Labs:

Renal biopsies are sent to Arkana Labs and must be submitted in an Arkana Lab Renal Biopsy transport/collection box, supplied from the Pathology department at LGH. The box contains a history and physical form, a vial of Michel's fixative (green top tube) and a vial of 10% formalin (white top tube). Collect two samples: one in the Michel's fixative and one in the formalin vial. Label each vial with the patient's name and a second identifier; each vial must have at least two patient identifiers. Place the vials into the biohazard bag and then into the transport/collection box and return to the Pathology department as soon as possible. Complete the paperwork in the box in its entirety and a Surgical Pathology requisition (reference **Surgical Pathology Examinations**). The renal specimens are tested and diagnosed by Light Microscopy, Electron Microscopy and Immunofluorescence.

Surgical Pathology Specimen Collection Guide

Muscle and Nerve Biopsies for Send Out:

Muscle biopsy for send out – Send 3 clamped muscle biopsy segments in a container with saline moistened gauze. Complete a Surgical Pathology requisition in its entirety and deliver the specimens and the requisition to the Pathology department as soon as possible.

Nerve Biopsy for send out – Send a segment of nerve at least 3 cm in length fresh in a specimen container. Complete a Surgical Pathology requisition in its entirety and deliver the specimen and requisition to the Pathology department as soon as possible.