

Pathology Specimen Collection and Preparation

A Tissue Data Sheet or electronic order form must be completed for all tissue specimens submitted to pathology for evaluation. The requisition must contain the following: patient name, medical record number, date of birth, ordering physician, date and time of collection, pertinent clinical information, and specimen source/site. Glass slides submitted should be labeled with the Patient's Last name, First name and Date of birth on the frosted end/side of the slide using a lab marker or pencil (not ballpoint pen or sharpie)

Handling of Surgical Tissue Specimens

All tissue specimens (except muscle biopsies, lymph node(s) for flow cytometry, specimens for frozen section) should be placed immediately in 10% formalin in separate containers of sufficient size, to accommodate formalin at least 10 times the tissue volume of the specimen.

- Muscle biopsies should be wrapped in saline-soaked gauze, placed in a small specimen container free of any liquid, and hand carried immediately to the Histology Department.
 - **Note:** 24 hour notice (call 314-996-4289) is preferred when muscle biopsies are scheduled, due to testing arrangements that need to be made with the reference laboratory, and the time-sensitive viability of specimens (approximately 1 hour).
 - Muscle biopsies must not be scheduled after 12 noon or on weekends or holidays.
- Lymph node(s) for flow cytometry testing should be wrapped in saline-soaked gauze, placed in a small specimen container free of any liquid, and hand carried immediately to the Histology Department for submission into appropriate transport medium. RPMI is available in the Histology Laboratory to be used as transport medium.
- Specimens for Frozen Section should be submitted fresh immediately to the Frozen Section Laboratory located on the second floor. A pathologist must be notified via pager of the request for frozen section. Page 314-490-9499 anytime.

Note: Do not place formalin on specimens which are also for culture.