

UW MEDICINE

NEUROPATHOLOGY

Harborview Medical Center

Department of Pathology, Neuropathology Division

TELE: 206-744-6315, FAX 206-744-8240

www.pathology.washington.edu/clinical/neuropath/clinical.php

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 overnighting specimen to us, delivery date must be Monday-Thursday (not Fridays).** 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.

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 is experienced with their use. The muscle does not need to be sutured 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**

Important: Delivery must be arranged **to arrive before 4 pm Mon-Thurs. Do not ship after Wednesday.**

Fresh specimen: place bagged muscle tissue in container with **wet (regular) ice** to last transport.

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

Harborview Medical Center
Neuropathology Histology Laboratory
Room 2EC 21, Box 359791
325 Ninth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

By Cab or Courier: (Monday-Friday)

Harborview Medical Center
Neuropathology Histology Lab (x3910)
Ground West Information Desk
320 Eighth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

LABEL ALL PACKAGES: **“DIAGNOSTIC TISSUE SPECIMEN”**

NOTIFY 744-3910 or 744-6315

immediately upon arrival to arrange for pickup by Neuropathology

6. **TELEPHONE CALL**

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

7. **QUESTIONS?**

Call Lab (Christiane, Randy, Susan) at 206-744-3910. Reach Dr. Donald Born via tele 206-744-6315 or pager 206-982-4958. Neuropathologist On-Call dial 206-744-6315 or the paging operator at 206-744-3000.