

UW MEDICINE

NEUROPATHOLOGY

Harborview Medical Center

Department of Pathology, Neuropathology Division

TELE: 206-731-6315, FAX 206-731-8240

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

NERVE BIOPSY – FIXED

Instructions for Tissue Preparation, Packaging and Shipping

Human Tissue: Always use universal precautions

1. NOTIFY NEUROPATHOLOGY HISTOLOGY LAB

Please call 206-731-3910 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 reason to have a shorter specimen, nerve function is lost for any length sample).

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

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

By Cab or Courier:

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

LABEL ALL PACKAGES:

"DIAGNOSTIC TISSUE SPECIMEN"

NOTIFY 731-3910 or 731-6315 immediately upon arrival to arrange for pickup by Neuropathology

6. TELEPHONE CALL

Call 206-731-3910 to inform Neuropath lab that a shipment is coming. For Fresh Tissue make sure you speak to someone.

7. QUESTIONS?

For lab, call 206-731-3910. Christiane, Randy, Susan, Antoinette. To reach Dr. Donald Born call 206-731-6315 or page 206-982-4958. Neuropathologist On-Call 206-731-6315 or the paging operator at 206-731-3000.