

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

EYE SPECIMEN

Instructions for Tissue Preparation, Packaging and Shipping

Human Tissue: Always use universal precautions

We provide pathological examination service for all ocular specimens, including cornea, conjunctiva and orbital biopsies and eye globes. Since rare ocular tumors and subtle differences among common tumors are often not obvious to a general pathologist, confirmation of the type and grade of an ocular tumor by an ocular pathologist is important prior to any further treatment decision.

Eye pathology consultations require three crucial elements:

- Information about the patient and disease
- Information about the radiological images such as CT scan or MRI films
- The pathology materials (glass slides and paraffin blocks) obtained during surgery

1. **NOTIFY THE NEUROPATHOLOGY HISTOLOGY LABORATORY**

Call 206-731-3910 to inform the Lab that a shipment is coming and delivery must be arrived to arrive before 4pm.

2. **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.

3. **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

Call 206-731-3910 to inform the Neurohistology Laboratory that a shipment is coming and 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

QUESTIONS?

To reach lab technicians: Call Christiane, Randy, Susan, Antoinette at 206-731-3910.

To reach ocular pathologist on call, dial 206-731-6315 or the paging operator at 206-731-3000

If you want to gross in the specimens and then send to Harborview Neuropathology for consultation, the following procedures are recommended:

Cornea (penetrating or lamellar keratoplasty) – After formalin fixation, measure and examine the cornea button under dissecting scope. Bisect the button perpendicularly through any focal lesion with **the concave side facing up**. Then, bisect one of the two halves again with the smaller piece submitted with the other half cornea in a tea bag.

Conjunctival biopsy - When called by the clinicians, instruct them to orient the specimen and put it between paper towels before the tissue is dropped into formalin. Cut the specimen perpendicularly and submit the tissue in a tea bag. When a bulbous lesion is suspected, one piece of the specimen should be fixed in Michel's fixative for immunofluorescence studies.

Enucleated Globe - Fix in formalin with volume of 20 times that of the eye, usually about 300 cc, for 48-72 hours. Occasionally, a fresh cut may be needed to select tissue for cytogenetics, etc, but **call an ocular pathologist before grossing in the globe**.

Membrane peel and trabeculectomy (rare procedure) - These are often quite small and should be described and processed like other very small specimens. One good way to avoid losing these specimens is to add some mercurochrome to the formalin, which colors the specimen, then filter the specimen through a tea bag, and finally mark the location of the specimen on the tea bag with a pencil.