BRAIN TISSUE – Whole Fixed Brain Tissue
Instructions for Tissue Preparation, Packaging and Shipping
Human Tissue: Always use universal precautions

IMPORTANT NOTES:
- Cases are accepted on a case by case basis, requiring approval by the autopsy neuropathology team.
- **DO NOT** send a brain if you have not discussed with UW Autopsy and After Death Services (AADS) and you have been notified of neuropathologist acceptance of the case.

PREPARATION
1. Carefully complete the [PATHOLOGY SERVICE REQUEST FORM](http://www.pathology.washington.edu/clinical/neuropath/clinical.php). Any missing information could delay the processing or results on the autopsy. **Important:** Provide clinical information and contact number for referring clinician.
2. **Brain:**
   - remove the brain in its entirety (cerebrum, brainstem and cerebellum)
   - record weight
   - place whole brain into a plastic bucket containing 10% buffered formalin (don’t ship yet).
   - After 5 days change formalin. After 10 days brain can be shipped.
   - place dura matter, if available, into the formalin along with the brain.
3. Secure lid firmly on the bucket.
4. Label specimen clearly with the decedent’s name.

SHIPPING
5. After the 10 days the fixed brain tissue may be shipped overnight. Seal the tissue in an airtight plastic bag with either
   - a) 5ml of formalin or
   - b) wrapped in formalin soaked gauze or towel. Seal in a second airtight plastic bag and place in a box heavily padded with packing material.
6. Enclose copy of any available medical records with the tissue.
7. Tape securely for overnight shipping.

**Shipping/Overnight Service (Monday-Thurs)**
Attention: Autopsy and After Death Services
UWMC Pathology, BB250
1959 NE Pacific Street
Seattle, WA 98195

LABEL ALL PACKAGES: “DIAGNOSTIC TISSUE SPECIMEN”
NOTIFY 206-598-4205 immediately upon arrival to arrange for pickup by UW AADS

8. **TELEPHONE CALL**
Call 206-598-4205 to inform the UW Autopsy & After Death Services (AADS)Team the specimen is coming.

QUESTIONS?
During day hours (7am- 4pm), please call UWMC Autopsy & After Death Services (AADS) at 206-598-4205. After hours/weekend/holiday, please call paging operator and ask for the AADS staff member on-call at 206-598-6190.

Thank you for carefully following these instructions.