



SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE

TEST INFORMATION

Gross examination with additional H&E stain for pathologic evaluation. Special stains and immunohistochemistry as ordered by pathologist to assist in diagnosis.

PREPARATION OF THE PATIENT

No blood thinners (aspirin, ibuprofen, etc.). Follow your facility's guidelines.

MATERIALS NEEDED

10% Neutral Buffered Formalin Container
Surgical Pathology Requisition
Biohazard Bag

COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill out Surgical Pathology Requisition; be sure to include any pertinent clinical history, rule outs, and the following information:
 - a. Patient's name, date of birth, sex, and address
 - b. Date and time of collection
 - c. Time in formalin (breast biopsies or history of breast carcinoma patients only)
 - d. Full name of the ordering physician
 - e. The specimen source (with laterality, if applicable)
2. Attach patient demographics.
3. Label the leak-proof specimen container with at least 2 patient identifiers (full name and date of birth) and the specimen source/type of tissue.
4. Collect the tissue per the facility's procedure. Put the tissue into the labeled 10% neutral buffered formalin container with specimen to formalin volume ratio of 1:20, place tissue in formalin immediately. Tighten all containers. Please ensure that the specimen is placed in the appropriate amount of formalin in a container of adequate size. It is extremely important to have adequate formalin fixation for optimal histologic processing of the specimen.
5. Place the labeled specimen container(s) into the biohazard bag and seal it. Place the Surgical Pathology Requisition and patient demographics in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.
6. Transport to lab via courier or shipping service.

SPECIALTY TISSUES

1. **Products of Conception (POC).** Prepare patient and collect the specimen following the facility's procedure. At Sagis we can only accept a fetus less than 20 completed weeks gestation (as determined by the clinician) and weighing less than 350 gm with no signs of life.
 - a. A completed histology requisition slip, including gestational age and/or weight of the fetus, as well as pertinent clinical information, should accompany the specimen.
 - b. Specimen can be submitted in formalin or fresh (in RPMI, kept refrigerated) depending on testing needs. Formalin (if chromosome analysis is not needed): Label container(s) with at least 2 patient identifiers (full name and date of birth) and the specimen source with a chemical resistant marker. Place specimen in leak-proof container and cover completely in formalin, seal container, and place in biohazard bag.
 - c. For POC Chromosome Analysis: the tissue must be sent fresh in RPMI and collected under sterile conditions.
 - i. If RPMI is not available, submit fresh/refrigerated with saline.
 - ii. To avoid drying of tissues submitted fresh, wrap solid tissue in saline dampened gauze prior to placement in labelled container, add a small volume of saline to tissue with insufficient naturally occurring fluid.
 - d. Please indicate on the container and requisition identifying whether saline or RPMI has been added. Label container(s) with at least 2 patient identifiers (full name and date of birth) and the specimen source with a chemical resistant marker. Put specimen container(s) into the biohazard bag and seal the bag. Place paperwork in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag. Store refrigerated and transport with ice packs. Transport to lab via courier or shipping service.
 - e. *For POC Chromosome Testing only: Tissue order of preference:* Chorionic villi, placenta, or placental membrane, known fetal tissue (especially lung, kidney, thymus, skin). **Quantity and handling:** Please send at least 30-100 mg villi or 0.5 -1 cm³ fresh tissue(s) collected under sterile conditions. Place fresh tissue in labeled container with RPMI. Complete requisition: note type of tissue(s) sent on the test requisition and whether it is fetal in origin or mixed maternal/fetal. Place container in biohazard bag, seal, and place requisition and demos in outside pocket. Use cold pack for transport, make sure cold pack is not in direct contact with specimen. Tissues placed in formalin are unacceptable. Transport to Transport to lab via courier service.
2. **Lymph node.** Lymph nodes may be received as complete nodes or as needle core biopsy specimens.
 - a. Tissue specimens collected with a suspected diagnosis of lymphoma should always be put into RPMI.
 - i. If RPMI is not available, submit FRESH/refrigerated. To avoid drying of tissues submitted fresh, wrap solid tissue in saline dampened gauze prior to placement in labelled container, add a small volume of saline to tissue with insufficient naturally occurring fluid.
 - ii. If submitting FRESH, indicate reason. For example, "FRESH to rule out lymphoma and/or rule out infection or other:_____."
 - b. Please indicate on the container and requisition identifying whether saline or RPMI has been added. Label container(s) with at least 2 patient identifiers (full name and date of birth) and the specimen source with a chemical resistant marker. Put specimen container(s) into the biohazard bag and close the bag. Place paperwork in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag. Store refrigerated and transport with ice packs.
3. **Breast Tissue/Sentinel Node tissue.** Prepare patient and collect the specimen following the facility's procedure.
 - a. Label container(s) with at least 2 patient identifiers (full name and date of birth) and the specimen source with a chemical resistant marker. Place specimen in a leak-proof container and cover completely in formalin, seal container, and place in biohazard bag. **Important:** The specimen must be placed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, within 1 hour of biopsy or resection procedure. Indicate the collection date and time on the requisition and the time specimen was placed in formalin on the requisition.
 - b. Tighten container lid. Label container(s) with at Place paperwork in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.

c. If submitting FRESH, MUST INDICATE REASON. For example, “FRESH to rule out lymphoma and/or rule out infection or other:_____.”

4. **Stone(s). Source: kidney, gall bladder, urinary bladder, salivary, prostate, filtered material.** Prepare patient and collect the specimen following the facility’s procedure.
- Label container(s) with at least 2 patient identifiers (full name and date of birth) and the specimen source with a chemical resistant marker. Place specimen in leak-proof container WITHOUT FORMALIN and seal container, and place in biohazard bag. **Important: The stone(s) should be dry. Please DO NOT place the stone(s) in formalin or any other liquid, including saline.** Indicate the collection date and time on the requisition.
 - Tighten container lid. Place paperwork in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.
5. **Specialty Tissues: Muscle, Nerve, or Kidney Biopsy.** Please notify the lab of the biopsy in advance. Special instructions and a special kit are needed. Failure to do so can result in rejection of the specimen.

STORAGE

Store formalin fixed tissue at room temperature. Fresh specimens in saline or RPMI must be refrigerated until courier pick up and must be transported with an ice pack to maintain viability of the tissue.

LIMITATIONS

Incorrect or insufficient fixative can limit interpretation. Time in formalin less than 6 hours or exceeding 72 hours will limit effectiveness of biomarker testing.

CAUSES FOR REJECTION

- Category A infected specimen (CJD).
- The specimen is not received from a licensed authorized source.
- The specimen was intended for another laboratory.
- Unlabeled specimen container(s).