

PASADENA CYTO-PATHOLOGY LABORATORY, INC.

A MEDICAL CORPORATION

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HISTOLOGY SPECIMENS

Tissue specimens may be dropped off in Surgical Pathology Monday through Friday between **0700 and 1800**. At all other times – including weekends and holidays - specimens should be taken to the **Clinical Laboratory Processing area on the ground floor of the West Tower**.

- I. Routine Pathology specimens should be submitted in an appropriately-sized, leak proof container and covered with 10% buffered formalin. Large specimens (colons, placentas, etc) may be submitted fresh but must be refrigerated after hours.
 - A. The container must be labeled legibly with the following information:
 1. Patient's full name
 2. MR number and/or Visit Number
 3. Age/date of birth
 4. Sex of patient
 5. Source of tissue
 - B. A completed "Pathology Tissue and Microbiology Requisition" form must accompany each specimen and contain the following:
 1. Patient's full name
 2. MR number and/or Visit Number
 3. Age/date of birth
 4. Sex of patient
 5. Date specimen was collected
 6. Source of tissue / specimen description
 7. Name of submitting physician/surgeon (and other pertinent clinicians)
 8. Clinical information including pre- and post-operative clinical impressions.
 9. Signature of surgeon
 10. Signature/name of person completing the form
 - C. If more than one specimen is submitted, each must be numbered and identified on a tissue requisition form and on the container label.
 - D. All specimens must be placed in a secondary, leak proof container or biohazard bag for transport.

Refer to following page(s) for the most common specimen handling requirements.

Any other special testing requests or tissues requiring special handling need to be communicated to Surgical Pathology prior to delivery of the specimen.

HISTOLOGY			Result availability from time received in the Lab	
TEST NAME	SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/STORAGE	ROUTINE	STAT
ROUTINE SPECIMENS	<p>Ideally, specimen should be placed in ten times its volume of 10% neutral buffered formalin; at the very least, specimen should be completely covered</p> <p>Large specimens may be sent fresh in an appropriately-sized leak proof container</p>	<p>Deliver specimen and requisition to Pathology processing area as soon as possible after collection.</p> <p>Refrigerate the specimen if it is delivered after Pathology hours of coverage</p>	24 to 48 hrs	N/A
COMPLEX SPECIMENS	<p>Ideally, specimen should be placed in ten times its volume of 10% neutral buffered formalin; at the very least, specimen should be completely covered</p> <p>Large specimens should be sent fresh in an appropriately-sized leak proof container</p>	<p>Deliver specimen and requisition to Pathology processing area as soon as possible after collection.</p> <p>Refrigerate the specimen if it is delivered after Pathology hours of coverage</p>	24 to 48 hrs	N/A
LIMBS	<p>Double-bag specimen in a plastic bag <u>other than a red biohazard bag</u>; specimens in red bags will require Surgery personnel to come to Pathology to properly contain them</p> <p>Refrigerate fresh specimen</p>	<p>Deliver specimen and requisition to pathology processing as soon as possible after collection.</p> <p>After hours, leave in refrigerator in Surgery – <u>do not</u> deliver to Processing in the Clinical Lab.</p> <p>If the limb is too big for the refrigerator, place in limb storage box in the Morgue and <u>log in specimen in Pathology stating that limb is in the Morgue</u></p>	24 to 48 hours	N/A
FROZEN SECTIONS / OPERATIVE CONSULTATIONS	<p>Fresh, unfixed specimen should be delivered to Pathology STAT</p>	<p>Deliver to Pathology Grossing Room and hand to personnel. Never leave a specimen on an unattended counter.</p> <p>After hours, the on-call pathologist should be notified in advance of pending procedure</p>	N/A	15 minutes

HISTOLOGY			Result availability from time received in the Lab	
TEST NAME	SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/STORAGE	ROUTINE	STAT
RENAL BIOPSY	Two to three cores of fresh, unfixed renal tissue should be delivered to Pathology STAT . Submit specimen on <u>damp</u> saline-soaked gauze	Deliver to Pathology Grossing Room and hand to personnel. Never leave a specimen on an unattended counter. After hours, the on-call pathologist should be notified in advance of pending procedure	Send Out – preliminary results available in 1-2 days; Final results available in 1-2 weeks	N/A
BONE MARROW	Cores in B-5 fixative (or 10% formalin if B-5 not available) Aspirate in purple top tube Peripheral blood in purple top tube Cytogenetics, flow studies in green top tube(s)	Deliver specimen and requisition to Pathology processing area as soon as possible after collection. Refrigerate the specimen if it is delivered after Pathology hours of coverage	24-72 hours	N/A
QUANTITATIVE IRON	Liver tissue at least 1 cm long obtained with an 18 gauge needle. Tissue less than 2 mg is unacceptable. Submit in 10% formalin in a metal-free container	Submit tissue for routine pathology and quantitative iron separately in labeled containers. Deliver specimen and requisition to Pathology processing area as soon as possible after collection. Refrigerate the specimen if it is delivered after Pathology hours of coverage	Send Out – 10 Days	N/A

HISTOLOGY			Result availability from time received in the Lab	
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NERVE BIOPSY	<p>Specimen requirements are different depending on where specimen is sent:</p> <p><u>Long Beach Memorial</u> – fresh sural nerve 3-4 cm in length should be placed on stiff porous paper or entirely frosted slide, straightened and <u>slightly</u> stretched and then placed in fixative provided in kit</p> <p><u>UCLA</u> – sural nerve at least 2.5 cm in length sent fresh to Pathology</p>	<p>Notify Pathology at least 4 working days in advance of the procedure in case a nerve bx kit has to be obtained.</p> <p>Clinician should specify where specimen is to be sent.</p> <p>Procedure should be scheduled before 12:00 pm to ensure specimen reaches reference hospital before afternoon cut-off time.</p> <p>History and physical (H&P) and patient billing information must accompany specimen</p>	<p>Send Out – 1 month</p>	N/A
MUSCLE BIOPSY	<p>Specimen requirements are different depending on where specimen is sent:</p> <p><u>Long Beach Memorial</u> – ideally 3 muscle specimens (10-15 mm x 5mm) on clamps; place in fixatives provided in kit</p> <p><u>UCLA</u> – 5-10 mm square of fresh muscle sent fresh to Pathology</p> <p><u>Children’s Hospital</u> – ideally 4 fragments of muscle measuring 3 x 4 mm each sent fresh to Pathology</p>	<p>Notify Pathology at least 4 working days in advance of the procedure in case a muscle bx kit has to be obtained.</p> <p>Clinician should specify where specimen is to be sent.</p> <p>Procedure should be scheduled before 12:00 PM to ensure specimen reaches reference hospital before afternoon cut-off time.</p> <p>History and physical (H&P) and patient billing information must accompany specimen</p>	<p>Send Out – 1 Month</p>	N/A

HISTOLOGY			Result availability from time received in the Lab	
TEST NAME	SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/STORAGE	ROUTINE	STAT
PRODUCTS OF CONCEPTION FOR KARYOTYPING (CHROMOSOME ANALYSIS)	3-4 mm or 50-100 mg of tissue. If possible, always include chorionic villi. Submit in sterile saline. DO NOT PLACE IN FORMALIN.	Submit tissue for routine Pathology <u>separately</u> from tissue for chromosome analysis in labeled containers. Deliver specimen for chromosome analysis directly to Processing on the Ground Floor - <u>DO NOT</u> deliver to Pathology.	Send Out – 7 - 21 days (Avg. 10 days)	N/A
ELECTRON MICROSCOPY (EM)	Fresh, unfixed specimen should be delivered to Pathology STAT or specimen may be placed and held in 3% glutaraldehyde in Surgery	Deliver to Pathology Grossing Room and hand to personnel. Never leave a specimen on an unattended counter.	Send Out – 2 weeks	N/A
CLONOGENIC ASSAY (EXTREME DRUG RESISTANCE ASSAY)	Fresh, sterile tumor (at least 1 mg) should be delivered to Pathology STAT	Deliver to Pathology Grossing Room and hand to personnel. Never leave a specimen on an unattended counter. After hours, the on-call pathologist should be notified in advance of pending procedure. In addition to the standard information required on the tissue requisition form, the following information must also be included: Histologic diagnosis, whether or not the patient received prior chemotherapy, cancer type, the specific tests requested, and patient billing information	Send Out – 3 to 4 weeks	N/A