



The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Division of Neuropathology

Brain Biopsy - General Instructions

The Division of Neuropathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, provides a full range of consultation services for brain biopsy specimens including brain tumors, seizure related resections, vascular malformations, infections, and developmental or metabolic disorders.

Clinical inquirers should be addressed to Dr. Brian Harding at 267-426-5504. Final reports are faxed and final copies are mailed. Written reports indicate patient information, accession number, slide/blocks examined, stains performed and interpretation. All original materials will be returned to the referring institution upon completion of our studies. Recut H&E stained sections submitted with the case, as well as any additional slides we have prepared in our laboratory, will be retained.

How To Send Brain Biopsy Specimens:

- 1. Complete the Brain Biopsy Requisition Form.** Questions about completing the requisition can be directed to: Dr. Brian Harding, at 267-426-5504.

A completed requisition must accompany all requests. It should contain:

- a. The patient name, identification number, date of biopsy, date of birth, male/female, clinical history, etc. as indicated on the requisition form.
- b. Other pertinent history and findings, as well as copies of the imaging studies and/or reports.
- c. Complete billing information for referring institution.

Along with the completed requisition, a copy of the referring pathologist's final systemic and neuropathology autopsy reports, or at least preliminary versions of these reports, must accompany all specimens submitted. If other consultants have previously seen the case, copies of those reports should also be included.

2. Guidelines for Brain Biopsy Preparation:

For evaluation of most brain biopsy specimens the following should be provided:

- a. complete set of recut H&E stained slides.
- b. a paraffin block (preferred) or 20 unstained slides from the most representative section. If it is unclear what section is most representative, the block or unstained sections can be subsequently submitted after an initial review of the slides by a CHOP neuropathologist.

Occasionally it may be helpful to send the original immunohistochemical stained sections or special stains. If this is necessary, these original sections can also be submitted; they will always be returned promptly to the

submitting institution.

In the event that it is necessary or desirable in an individual case, you can also submit residual tissue that has been fixed in formalin for routine histology.

3. **Specimen Preparation and Shipping:**

GLASS SLIDES AND PARAFFIN BLOCKS

- a. All materials sent by either standard or express mail must be protected from damage by using proper packaging. It is recommended that glass slides be enclosed in plastic slide boxes (available in most laboratories) which hold up to five slides each. Excess space in the box under the lid should be filled with cotton gauze or tissue paper, to avoid breakage due to shaking. The lid of the box should be taped closed. Slide boxes should be surrounded by the relevant pathology reports and/or referral letter), enclosed in a rigid mailing container (either a cardboard box or rigid screw-cap mailing tube), and the space around the materials filled with padding (gauze, paper, or styrofoam). It is suggested that all materials related to the case be shipped in the same container.
- b. The box or cylinder should be tightly closed and sealed with tape. The mailing label should include a return address as well as the name of the referring clinician or pathologists.
- c. Material sent by express mail or from outside the U.S. usually requires identification of the contents. A sample label might read:
Glass slides of Human Tissue for Diagnosis
Non-Infectious
Non-Hazardous
No Commercial Value
- d. For questions for proper shipment of specimens, please contact the carrier.

FIXED TISSUE

- a. Residual tissue that has been placed in formalin for routine histology can also be submitted for gross and microscopic examination.
- b. Immerse the tissue in 10% neutral buffered formalin (NBF) in an appropriate sealable container.
- c. Label containers with "Formaldehyde precaution".
- d. Double bag the specimen containers and place into a box with adequate absorbent material in case of leakage.
- e. Securely seal the box.
- f. Indicate on the exterior of the box "Formaldehyde Precaution".
- g. The mailing label should include a return address as well as the name of the referring clinician or pathologists.
- h. Material sent by express mail or from outside the U.S. usually requires identification of the contents. A sample label might read:
Human Tissue for Diagnosis
Non-Infectious
Non-Hazardous
No Commercial Value

- i. For questions for proper shipment of specimens, please contact the carrier.
- j. Ship at ambient temperature, **DO NOT FREEZE.**

Shipping address:

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324 S. 34th St.
Main 5NW27
Philadelphia PA 19104-4318
215-590-1728
215-590-1736 FAX