

SPECIMEN COLLECTION PROCEDURES, SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

Collection Procedures for Pathology Surgical Specimens

Purpose

The quality of a pathology specimen for diagnosis is directly dependent on the proper handling of the specimen after removal from the patient. If there are any questions regarding the proper handling of a specimen, please call (510) 606-8787 and ask to speak to a pathologist or certified PA.

Materials

1. Specimen container, with appropriate fixative
2. Pathology Request form.

Procedure

General Surgical Specimens:

After collection, the specimen should be placed immediately into an appropriate sized specimen container filled with a minimum of ten times the volume of 10% neutral buffered formalin.

The container **must** be marked with the patient's name, date of birth, and the type of specimen. The date of collection may also be recorded on the container.

The Pathology Request form must be completed to include the following information:

- Patient Name
- Patient Date of Birth
- Source of Specimen
- Date of Collection
- Clinical History
- Requesting Physician
- Insurance Information

If the Pathology Request form is not properly completed, there may be a delay in processing the specimen.

Prostate Biopsies:

After collection, the specimen(s) should be placed immediately into an appropriate sized specimen container filled with a minimum of ten times the volume of 10% neutral buffered formalin. The container **must** be marked with the patient's name, date of birth, and the type of specimen. The date of collection may also be recorded on the container.

The Pathology Request form must be completed to include the following information:

- Patient Name
- Patient Date of Birth
- Source of Specimen
- Date of Collection
- Clinical History
- Requesting Physician
- Insurance Information

If the Pathology Request form is not properly completed, there may be a delay in processing the specimen.

Bone Marrow Biopsies:

After collection, the specimen should be placed immediately into an appropriate sized specimen container filled with B-Plus Fixative. The container **must** be marked with the patient's name, date of birth, and the type of specimen. The date of collection may also be recorded on the container.

The Pathology Request form must be completed to include the following information:

- Patient Name
- Patient Date of Birth
- Source of Specimen
- Date of Collection
- Clinical History
- Requesting Physician
- Insurance Information

If the Pathology Request form is not properly completed, there may be a delay in processing the specimen.

Skin Biopsies (Routine):

After collection, the specimen(s) should be placed immediately into an appropriate sized specimen container filled with a minimum of ten times the volume of 10% neutral buffered formalin. The container **must** be marked with the patient's name, date of birth, and the type of specimen. The date of collection may also be recorded on the container.

The Pathology Request form must be completed to include the following information:

- Patient Name
- Patient Date of Birth
- Source of Specimen
- Date of Collection

- Clinical History
- Requesting Physician
- Insurance Information

If the Pathology Request form is not properly completed, there may be a delay in processing the specimen.

Skin Biopsies (Immunofluorescence):

Ideally, the specimen should be delivered fresh, immediately to the pathology department. If this is not possible, place the specimen immediately into an appropriate sized specimen container filled with Zeus Fixative. If there will be a delay of over two hours before delivery of the specimen, the specimen in the Zeus Fixative should be refrigerated. The container **must** be marked with the patient's name, date of birth, and the type of specimen. The date of collection may also be recorded on the container.

The Pathology Request form must be completed to include the following information:

- Patient Name
- Patient Date of Birth
- Source of Specimen
- Date of Collection
- Clinical History
- Requesting Physician
- Insurance Information

If the Pathology Request form is not properly completed, there may be a delay in processing the specimen.