



10 SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS FOR FRESH TISSUE

10.2 Fresh Specimens

The histology department should be informed prior to any fresh (unfixed) specimens being sent to the laboratory and of any test(s) required. The specimen container **must** indicate that the tissue is fresh and these specimens must be sent to the laboratory the same day as soon as possible so they can be handled correctly without compromising the sample.

10.2.1 Breast Specimens

- Fresh breast specimens must be sent to the Breast Screening Unit for specimen X-ray prior to transportation to the Histology department.
- Fresh breast specimens should be transported by hand to the Histology laboratory and handed to a member of staff and not left in Pathology Reception.
- **Fresh breast specimens must not be transported to Pathology in the Pneumatic Tube System.**

10.2.2 Renal Biopsies for assessment of autoimmune disease:

Renal biopsy performed for assessment of glomerular disease requires complex processing including standard H&E and special stains on paraffin embedded tissue, immunofluorescence techniques to demonstrate antibody or antibody-antigen complexes and electron microscopy. Two renal biopsy cores are ideal. If only one core of tissue is available it may need to be divided into fragments for any or all of these procedures according to the requirements of the individual case. Such division should be carried out by a competent BMS/ Histopathologist with the assistance of a dissecting microscope to ensure glomeruli are present in each of the samples.

- The laboratory must have advanced notice of the impending biopsy (at least 1 hours) to ensure appropriate staff are available to deal with the sample.
- Please contact the Histology Laboratory on 0191 445 6580 in the event of any delays or cancellations.
- Renal tissue should be taken and placed into a pre-labelled universal tube filled with saline. (Available from the laboratory). The label will contain the following information.

Contact Pathology reception SRH on ext 42784 and QEHLab on 445 6580 to inform them of the sample. Take to Pathology Reception and inform staff of the biopsy type and its urgency to get to QEHLab (taxi). Immerse the sample fully in saline. Indicate if **Transplant biopsy.**

- The sample and accompanying request form should then be taken to Pathology reception B floor SRH by hand and passed directly to a member of the Pathology staff informing them of the nature of the specimen and its urgency.
- The sample will be urgently transported to The Pathology Centre at QEHLab for processing and reporting.



10.2.3 Skin biopsies for assessment of autoimmune disease: Skin Immunofluorescence (IMF)

Skin biopsies may be submitted for immunofluorescence detection of antibodies or antibody-antigen complexes. A detailed clinical history and provisional diagnosis should accompany the biopsy. It is preferable to submit two separate skin biopsies from the same lesion. One biopsy specimen should be placed in immunofluorescence transport medium (Michels Medium available on request from Cellular Pathology QEH on 4456580) and the other placed in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin. The specimens should be forwarded to the laboratory for testing as soon as possible. The Michels medium preserves fresh tissue reactivity for up to 5 days at ambient temperature but if this is not available please ensure the specimen reaches the lab as soon as possible and that the laboratory are aware of its arrival so it can be handled correctly upon receipt.