



9 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

9.4 Products of Conception for Cytogenetic Studies

Chromosome abnormalities are found in >50% of spontaneous miscarriages occurring in the first trimester of pregnancy. Cytogenetic analysis of tissue obtained from products of conception is useful in investigating the cause of recurrent miscarriage/IUFD and in the identification of chromosome abnormalities which may potentially pose problems in future pregnancy attempts.

Do not send fetus and placenta, only send biopsies.

- Placental biopsy:** always send
take from fetal side of placenta (follow cord to insertion)
take from centre of placenta (not edge)
~1cm³ size
- Skin biopsy:** always send if possible, conditional on parental consent
take from back of thigh
~5mm² for 16/40 or older; minimum size for < 16/40 is 2mm²
- Collection:** please do not expect the Pathologist to take the samples at PM
use different scissors and forceps for skin and placenta
use separate universals containing sterile saline
label universals with patient details and tissue type
- Transport:** without delay or store at 4°C
no need to inform us in advance by telephone
- Paperwork:** use a single Cytogenetics request form and bag
do **not** send cytogenetic consent form or any other paperwork
write legibly please
give full details:
- consultant
 - referral reason
 - gestation
 - fetal abnormalities (TOP for multiple abnormalities is no good – specify what they are)
 - if a PM is/is not being done

Tissue should be sent as described above to the Histology laboratory who will forward this **directly** to:

Cytogenetics Laboratory
Centre for Life
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.