



HISTOPATHOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION

I. SERVICES

Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii at Airport Trade Center provides a full range of pathology services for the handling of tissue specimens. Most tests are performed in house with a routine one-day turnaround time. Some specialized tests require sending material to outside reference laboratories. See procedure and table below for proper handling, collection, and submission of surgical pathology specimens.

II. PROCEDURES

1. Consider the need to notify the Airport Trade Center Laboratory at (808) 834-5128 in advance of any tests requiring special handling. (see below)
2. Use universal precautions in handling all tissue specimens.
3. Handle all fixative solutions (10% formalin and Saccomanno) with care, wearing appropriate protective gear (gloves and goggles/face shield)
4. Use as small a volume of fixative as feasible (at least 10 times the tissue volume) to lessen potential for hazardous spill. Note: Pre-made formalin filled containers and spill containment kits are available from the laboratory upon request.
5. Obtain tissue specimen by appropriate procedure. Avoid crushing or distorting tissue.
6. Determine the need for any specialized studies and handle as indicated below. (see table)
7. For multiple samples, label each container and request with the site and identifying label; e.g., (A) Left arm (B) Right big toe (C) Nose
8. Place specimen in sealable leak proof container labeled completely with the following information:
 - a. Patients first and last name
 - b. Referring physician's name
 - c. Date and time collected
 - d. Specimen source or site
 - e. Medical Record number or Date of Birth



9. Choose appropriate inpatient surgical request card or outpatient histopathology specimen requisition and fill in completely (if applicable).
 - a. Patient's first and last name
 - b. Referring physician's name
 - c. Date and time collected
 - d. Breast only: Time removed from patient & time placed in formalin
 - e. Specimen source or site
 - f. Medical Record number or Date of Birth
 - g. Surgical Diagnosis or ICD Diagnosis
 - h. Any special information (e.g. Orientation) or instructions (eg. Special stains)
 - i. Relevant history
 - j. Hospital unit/room or patient's address
 - k. Billing information
10. For breast specimens, additional information is required to improve the accuracy and utility of predictive markers in breast cancer. Indicate on the histopathology requisition the time removed and time specimen placed in formalin.
11. Attach the inpatient surgical request card to the container with a rubber band or place the outpatient histopathology specimen requisition in the outer pocket of a biohazard plastic bag for transport to Pathology.
12. Deliver unfixed specimens immediately to the laboratory.
13. If cultures (bacterial, AFB, fungal or viral) are needed, DO NOT ADD FORMALIN to the sterile container. If possible, collect a separate specimen and use a CLH requisition for the culture order.
14. Request forms are dependant on the specimen and test order:

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Frozen section
Tissue/biopsy
Lymph node

CYTOLOGY

Body Fluids or Non-GYNs
GYNs/PAP smears
PAP/HPV Thin Prep
GC/Chlamydia using ThinPrep collection
Needle aspirations, Brushings

CLH REQUISITION

Tissue/Fluid culture for Microbiology
GC/Chlamydia using Aptima collection kit

15. An electronic copy of this procedure is posted to the CLH website.



**HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR SURGICAL PATHOLOGY
TISSUE SPECIMENS**

SPECIMEN	REQUEST	PROCEDURE	TEST
Tissue	Routine Microscopy	Fix in 10% Formalin	H&E Stained Slide Review
Tissue	Frozen Section for Diagnosis and/or Margins	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh immediately	Frozen section consultation
Tissue	Immunohistochemistry for tumor/tissue typing	Fix in 10% Formalin	Immunohistochemical stained slide review
Tissue	Electron microscopy for tumor/tissue typing	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh immediately	Electron microscopic analysis Reference Laboratory
Tissue	Chromosomal Analysis	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh in a sterile container immediately	Chromosome analysis Reference Laboratory
Tissue	Special stain for Organism or Cellular Product	Fix in 10% Formalin	Fungus-PAS/Silver Methenamine Stain AFB /Leprosy-AFB FITE stain
Breast biopsy	Hormone Receptor Analysis Prognostic/Predictive Marker Analysis	Fix in 10% Formalin immediately, minimum 6 hours and no longer than 72 hours	Immunohistochemical analysis quantification
Bone Marrow Biopsy	Routine Microscopy	Fix in 10% Formalin	H&E Stained slide review
Kidney Biopsy	Electron Microscopy Immunofluorescence Light Microscopy	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh immediately	EM/Immunofluorescence Light Microscopy Special Stains
Lymph Node	R/O Lymphoma	Send fresh immediately	Special fixation Touch Preparations Flow Cytometry
Lymph Node	Culture for Infectious Disease/Microbiology	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh in sterile container immediately	Culture
Skin Biopsy (mucosa, lung)	Immunofluorescence for immune mediated disease	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh immediately	Special holding medium immunofluorescence Reference Laboratory
Skeletal Muscle Biopsy	Enzyme Histochemistry for disease typing	Notify pathology lab in advance, send fresh immediately	Enzyme Histochemistry

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