

HISTOLOGY ATC BRANCH

HD-19-HSC-10.2

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 is sealable leak proof container labeled completely with the following information:
 - 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



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- 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 CYTOLOGY

Frozen section Body Fluids or Non-GYNs

Tissue/biopsy GYNs/PAP smears Lymph node 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.



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HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR SURGICAL PATHOLOGY TISSUE SPECIMENS

Tissue Routine Microscopy Fix in 10% Formalin H&E Stained Slide Review Frozen Section for Diagnosis and/or Margins Tissue Immunohistochemistry for tumor/tissue typing Tissue Electron microscopy for tumor/tissue typing Tissue Chromosomal Analysis Electron microscopy for tumor/tissue typing Tissue Chromosomal Analysis Pissue Chromosomal Analysis Reference Laboratory Tissue Special stain for Organism or Cellular Product Breast biopsy Hommone Receptor Analysis Prognostic/Predictive Marker Analysis Prognostic/Predictive Marker Analysis Prognostic/Predictive Microscopy Immunofluorescence Light Microscopy Immunofluorescence Light Microscopy Lymph Node Lymph Node Culture for Infectious Disease/Microbiology Skeletal Muscle Biopsy Kiln Biopsy (mucosa, Immunofluorescence for immediately) Kiln Biopsy (mucosa, Immunofluorescence for immediately immediately) Kiln Biopsy (mucosa, Immunofluorescence for immediately immediately for disease typing immediately immediately immediately for disease supping immediately immediately immediately for disease immediately immediately immediately immediately for disease supping immediately immediately immediately immediately immediately for disease supping immediately imme	SPECIMEN	REQUEST	PROCEDURE	TEST
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