

SPECIMEN PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION – MUSCLE AND NERVE BIOPSIES

Required paperwork:

1. A completed copy of the “Surgical Pathology/Neuropathology Consultation Request” form is required for every muscle and nerve specimen submitted.
2. Patient demographics.
3. Clinical information to include with the muscle or nerve biopsy:
 1. H&P
 2. Consult notes (preferably neurology and/or rheumatology if applicable)
 3. Recent laboratory results (including CK level)
 4. EMG and/or nerve conduction study results
 5. Procedure note

****If only limited clinical information is available, please forward the contact information for the patient’s referring provider and/or PCP so that they can be contacted for additional information.****

Specimens will not be processed until we receive adequate identifying and billing information (i.e. name, DOB, SSN, etc.).

SPECIMENS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 2:00 PM, WEEKDAYS, AT THE PATHOLOGY LABORATORY IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE JACOBS MEDICAL CENTER.

Address:

UC San Diego Health
Pathology Laboratory
9300 Campus Point Drive
JMC LL-503
La Jolla, CA 92037

SPECIMENS RECEIVED AFTER HOURS (I.E. HOLIDAYS, WEEKENDS, OR AFTER REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS) WILL BE PROCESSED THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY.

The lab should be notified in advance of specimen submission by calling the Histology Service main line at: 858-249-2578. If no answer, call the Cytology Service at: 858-657-5091

Any questions can be directed to the Neuropathology fellow (on call pager 619-290-3245).

OPTIMAL SPECIMEN PREPARATION FOR COMMON BIOPSY MATERIAL

MUSCLE BIOPSIES

The MUSCLE should be submitted fresh, wrapped in gauze slightly moistened with normal saline. Do not immerse in saline, as this will produce artifacts that may interfere with interpretation. Place the muscle in a dry specimen container on regular ice and deliver immediately to the Pathology Lab (Room LL-503) at UC San Diego Health (in the Jacobs Medical Center at the La Jolla Health complex).

Ideally, at least 1 cm³ of fresh muscle tissue should be submitted. Complete muscle workup requires tissue for formalin fixation, frozen, and electron microscopy.

Routine Muscle Stains:

FFPE:

H&E

CD4, CD8, CD20, CD68 (if inflammatory cells present)

FROZEN:

H&E

NADH

Trichrome

ATPase pH 9.4 and ATPase pH 4.3

Non-specific esterase

Dual COX/SDH

Acid Phosphatase

PAS

Oil-red-O

NERVE BIOPSIES

DO NOT CUT. DO NOT STRETCH. DO NOT TIE SUTURES around portion of nerve to be examined.

Send the nerve wrapped in saline moistened gauze.

Alternatively, nerve can be sent intact in 10% neutral-buffered formalin (but this may introduce some artifact for electron microscopy interpretation)

LABORATORY HOLIDAYS

(If the day falls on a Saturday - the holiday is the Friday before, if the day falls on a Sunday - the holiday is the Monday after)

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday
- President's Day

- Cesar Chavez Birthday (last Friday in March)
- Memorial Day
- July 4
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day (November 11)
- Thanksgiving and Friday after
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve