

# *Specimen Collection and Preparation for Surgical Pathology.*

Laboratory test results are dependent on the quality of the specimen submitted. It is important that all specimens and request forms be properly labeled with the name of the patient, date of birth, collection date, time, original collector's initials, and the origin (source) of the specimen, when applicable. Specimens must have two patient identifiers (patient's name must be one of them); without these the specimen cannot be processed.

If there is any doubt or question regarding how the specimen should be collected, it is imperative that Sky Lakes Pathology Services be called to clarify the order and specimen requirements.

## **Specimen Collection for histological examination:**

### **LABELING:**

All specimen containers must be properly labeled with two identifiers including: patient name, date of birth, or medical record number. Specimen source needs to be as accurate as possible. Please make sure the patient's information is exactly the same on both the specimen container and the requisition.

### **ROUTINE HISTOLOGY:**

Specimens should be submitted in 10% buffered formalin.

### **FROZEN SECTION OR STAT EXAMINATION:**

These specimens should always be kept fresh/ or refrigerated and not placed in formalin. Call Sky lakes Pathology department at (541) 274-6243 to schedule a frozen section procedure.

### **SPECIMENS FOR FLOW CYTOMETRY:**

Any tissue or body fluid submitted for Flow Cytometry should be fresh and immediately placed into RPMI media.

If RPMI media is unavailable, keep specimen fresh/ or refrigerated until delivery is possible to the lab, no longer than 12 hours if possible.

If traveling a long distance and no RPMI is available, place specimen in a sterile container and add a small amount of sterile saline. Please mark the container identifying saline has been added.

### **IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE:**

All specimens should be placed in immunofluorescence transport medium (Michels or Zeus). If you do not have

immunofluorescence media immediately available to you, keep the tissue fresh and call 541-274-6243 for immediate delivery.

Specimens should not be placed in formalin or other fixatives. For skin biopsies, the ideal specimen is a 3mm punch biopsy.

### **IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AND OTHER SPECIAL STAINS:**

Most special stains and immunohistochemistry stains can be performed from a formalin fixed tissue block or from unstained slides.

Please call Sky Lakes Pathology Department (541) 274-6243 to verify.

### **CYTOGENETIC TESTING:**

Tissue samples submitted for Cytogenetic testing are required to be submitted fresh and within 2 hours of removal for optimal test results.

For Chromosome Analysis a portion of thigh tissue measuring 1 cm in length is required for examination or a portion of chorionic villi located within the product of conception.

### **STONE ANALYSIS:**

Kidney and or bladder stones submitted for histologic examination may be sent "fresh" without any liquid. After gross examination the stone specimen will be sent to a reference lab for chemical analysis.

### **Transport:**

Routine histology- 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin

Frozen Section- fresh tissue

Flow Cytometry- fresh tissue/RPMI fluid

Immunofluorescence- Formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue. Or tissue submitted in Michel's or Zeus fixative.

### **Rejection(delayed) Criteria:**

Specimen vial past expiration date; no orders; no specimen collected; unlabeled or mislabeled specimen. These will all be held by the lab until verification is received by the responsible party.

### **Storage:**

Store tissue specimens in 10% neutral buffered formalin between 15° C (59° F) and 30° C (86° F) indefinitely or until the container reaches its expiration date.

### **Performed:**

Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.