

Charleston Area Medical Center Health System
Anatomical (Surgical) Pathology General Information

Surgical specimens are processed Monday thru Friday between 8:00am and 3:30pm. Most reports are available the next business day. In some situations, cases will require special studies, e.g. special stains, which will delay the reporting process.

SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS

All of the following requirements apply to all surgical specimens submitted to Histology. This includes the main O.R. Suites, outpatient procedural areas and outreach clinics.

Specimens are picked up from the outpatient procedural areas between 9:00am and 2:30pm. The OR delivers specimens to the pathology suite anytime. These specimens are transported to the histology laboratory between 8:00 and 3:30pm Monday thru Friday.

Nursing units transport specimens to the laboratory anytime. Outreach clients specimens are transported to the laboratory Monday thru Friday between 8:00am and 3:30PM.

In-patient specimens need Pathology Tissue Request order and outpatient specimens (i.e LabWorks) need to complete AP request form.

Specimens will not be processed if labeled incorrect. The specimen will be returned to the OR, outpatient procedural area or nursing unit.

Necessary information includes:

1. Patient name
2. Date of birth
3. Sex
4. Doctor name
5. Patient location, Medical Record Number and Account number
6. Specimen submitted, including anatomic location
7. Pertinent clinical information, consisting of pre-operative and post-operative information
8. Request forms should be signed by the doctor
9. Date and time of collection, initials of person collecting specimen, and the time in formalin.
10. Do not transport surgical specimens via the pneumatic tube system.

Submit routine specimens in 10% buffered formalin and be completely covered with 20% more formalin than the volume of the specimen. Ensure container lids are tight. Place the specimen in a biohazard bag and place the paperwork in the pouch of the bag.

Multiple specimens from a single patient must be submitted in a separate container and labeled according to specific anatomic site.

FROZEN SECTION

Frozen Sections are available from between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Deliver specimens for frozen section to the pathology suite immediately. If the pathologist or histology staff is not present, page them immediately.

The pathologist on call will be available for frozen sections after hours. Please notify the pathologist on call as soon as possible of a frozen section after hours by contacting the hospital operator or the pager numbers posted in the pathology suite or on CAMNET.

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SPECIAL BIOPSIES

Deliver tissues for special studies to the Pathology Department as soon as possible, in a fresh state.

A tissue specimen intended for microbiologic examination and histopathology studies need divided under sterile conditions and the portion for culture study submitted in an unfixed state directly to the Microbiology Laboratory. The remaining tissue for should be submitted in formalin to the Histology Laboratory with the Pathology Tissue Request ordered. For outpatients complete the AP request form.

HER 2 NEU Estrogen and Progesterone Breast Receptors: All testing for estrogen and progesterone receptors are performed from the paraffin block, which is prepared during tissue processing. No special specimen handling is required.

Lymph Nodes: Submit tissue for microbiologic study under sterile conditions to the Microbiology Laboratory. Submit tissue for histopathology fresh, if lymphoma is suspect.

Urinary Tract Stones: All stones are submitted for crystallographic examination, unless otherwise indicated.

Placenta: Completely immersed in formalin.

Mastectomy Specimens: Submit in formalin (if no frozen section is requested), and time submitted in formalin.

Testicle, Liver, GI, Artery, and Bone Biopsies: Submit in formalin.

SPECIMENS REQUIRING DISPOSAL REQUEST

Amputation
Fetus

GROSSING ROOM PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All gross examination procedures of anatomic pathology specimens are under the direct responsibilities of the assigned attending pathologist for that case. Pathologist assistants and pathology residents can perform gross examinations under the supervision of the pathologist.

1. Pathology residents, certified Pathologist Assistants, (AAPA or equivalent) may perform gross examinations with supervision.
2. Pathology Assistants may set up and assist with the examination of all specimen types. Under the **direct supervision of a pathologist**, Pathology Assistants may perform examination and submission of surgical pathology specimen's level I-IV for histological examination. Specimens that can be examined by a Pathology Assistant (under direct supervisor of a pathologist) include:

Specimens requiring gross only:

- Hernia sac
- Vas deferens
- Tubes
- Appendix
- Gall bladder
- Tonsils > 16 years of age
- Small biopsies (including skin)

3. Attending pathologist will provide feedback to the pathology assistants, and residents as appropriate. The Histology Operations Manager will evaluate the Pathology Assistants quarterly. The attending pathologist is

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responsible for examination and the final sign out of all gross examinations.

4. Dissecting manuals and checklists for the more common specimen types are available at all gross room dissection areas.

TISSUE SPECIMEN CLASSIFICATION

Certain pathologic specimens do not require examination upon removal from the patient. There will be accommodations for physicians submitting specimens included on this list below as being exempt.

Exempt specimens

1. Orthopedic hardware
2. Medical devices
3. Tubes
4. Foreign bodies
5. Suctioned fat
6. Excess bone from bone graft
7. Teeth
8. Excess skin from face lift / blepharoplasty for cosmetic purposes
9. Nails
10. Scar tissue

Some specimens may only require gross (macroscopic) examination and will not receive microscopic examination unless requested by the submitting physician.

Gross (macroscopic) examination only

1. Articular cartilage, including meniscus (of knee) excised for prior trauma
2. Bunions, nasal bone and cartilage
3. Bone and cartilage removed from osteoarthritic joints
4. Cataracts
5. Hernia sac without gross abnormalities, over the age of 12
6. Intervertebral disc taken from patients with herniation and no other evidence of tumor involvement of the disc on gross inspection by submitting physician
7. Specimen from lipectomy
8. Prepuce (neonates only)
9. Tonsils and adenoids (in patients less than 16 years old)

All other surgical tissues submitted to the laboratory will require both a macroscopic and microscopic examination. All specimens submitted to the laboratory will have a report generated.

FOR STUDIES NOT OUTLINED IN THIS SECTION CONTACT THE HISTOLOGY LABORATORY FOR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. 304-388-9463