Fixation Requirements for Surgical Pathology Specimens

I. During Monday through Friday from 0700-1630 hours:

A. The following specimens should be delivered fresh to Surgical Pathology. Small specimens should be placed in saline moistened gauze. Brain biopsies should be placed in a miniscule amount of saline in a sterile container.

1. All large specimens for gross examination or photography. (E.g. stomach, larynx, placenta, colon, limbs, pancreas)
2. Tissues for culture as well as histology (To be routed to Microbiology first)
3. Any tissue for frozen section
4. Any tissue for operating room consultation or open and return.
5. Lymph node (may also be placed in saline moistened gauze).

B. Handling instructions for the following specimens, may be obtained from the on-call-Pathologist prior to removal.

1. Muscle biopsy (two, 1.5cm x 1.5cm long pieces submitted fresh within 15 minutes.)
2. Skin biopsy for immunoflourescence (Michel’s transport media).
3. Renal biopsy (divided in three portions and submitted respectively in Glutaraldehyde, Zeus, and Formalin.)
4. Any biopsy for special Immunohistochemistry.
5. Genetic testing (three, 2.0cm sterile tissue samples in RPMI)
6. Drug resistance assay (1-2gm sterile sample in RPMI)
7. Gout specimens
8. Nerve biopsies (3cm in length)
9. Flow Cytometry (Two pieces of tissue 0.2cm x 0.2cm x 0.2cm)

C. All other tissue should be immediately placed in 10% neutral buffer formalin and delivered to the Laboratory.

9/11/19
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II. During non-operating hours:

A. Tissue usually sent fresh should be treated in the following manner:

1. All legs and placentas should be placed in the Surgical Pathology refrigerator with a note left on the gross room counter notifying the technician that there is a specimen in the refrigerator.

2. All tissue for culture as well as histology should be sent to the Microbiology Laboratory. The Microbiology Technologist will process the specimen and consult with the pathologist on call for further direction.

3. All other fresh specimens will require consultation by the On-call-Pathologist.