

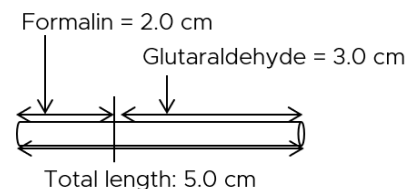
Protocol/procedure for sending sural nerve biopsy specimens

Instructions for tissue preparation, packaging and shipping human tissue: Always use universal precautions

Nerve biopsy kit (solutions can be stored at 4°C for up to 1 year)

Combine vials A & B on the day of biopsy prior to fixation.

- Vial A: 12.0 ml – sodium cacodylate buffer (EM fixative)
- Vial B: 5.0 ml - 8% glutaraldehyde (EM fixative)
- Vial C: 10.0 ml – 10% formalin
- Index card
- Patient requisition form
- Please include any relevant history and/or lab results



1. Notify the Muscle & Nerve Laboratory

Please call (608) 263-9184 a minimum of 24 hours before the biopsy is performed. The specimen should arrive in our laboratory between 6 am and 2:30 pm, Monday – Friday. FedEx specimens should be sent Monday through Thursday only. If the sample is collected on Friday or on a day prior to a holiday the specimen will require same day delivery to UWHC by your local courier. Call to verify. If a planned biopsy is cancelled or postponed, let us know.

2. Specimen specifications (operating room)

The sural nerve biopsy should be a minimum length of 3.0 cm, preferably 5.0 cm. In the OR the fresh nerve must be placed on a flat surface, without stretching, as straight as possible on a piece of index card and immediately sent to the pathology department. The specimen must NOT be immersed in saline

3. Fresh specimen handling (pathology department)

- A. Combine vial A into vial B (pour B into A).
- B. Divide nerve into two segments (see above diagram) while attached to index card.
 - Place 2.0 cm on index card into 10% formalin (Vial C)
 - Place 3.0 cm on index card into 2.5% glutaraldehyde (Vial A+B)

Note: If smaller or greater than 5.0 cm of nerve is received, divide 1/3 for formalin, 2/3 for glutaraldehyde fixation.

- C. Place both sealed vials C and A (now combined A&B), label with patient name and biopsy site, into sealed biohazard bag. Place into the provided Styrofoam container with cold gel packs.

Include a copy of biopsy orders, current H&P, and any other important medical information and the completed UWHC Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Analysis Request form on the outside of the container.

- D. Address container for delivery to:

University Hospital
600 Highland Avenue - Loading Dock, Room D4/136
Madison, WI 53792

Upon arrival call Muscle & Nerve Laboratory (608) 263-9184

Call Muscle & Nerve Laboratory personnel with the package tracking number. A FedEx shipping slip is included for over-night shipment of specimens.