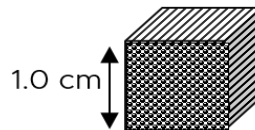


Protocol/procedure for sending muscle biopsy specimens

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

Muscle biopsy contents for fresh biopsy:

- Vial A: Tissue with no fixative
- Patient information form and history



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. Call to verify. If a planned biopsy is cancelled or postponed, let us know.

2. Specimen specifications (operating room)

The muscle biopsy should be a minimum aggregate of muscle measuring 1.0 x 1.0 x 1.0 cm (sugar cube sized). In the OR the fresh muscle must be placed on saline moistened (wring out all fluid first) Telfa or gauze and immediately sent to the pathology department. The specimen must **NOT** be immersed in saline and muscle clamps should **NOT** be used. DO NOT put in formalin.

3. Fresh specimen handling (pathology department)

- The fresh muscle tissue should be gently wrapped with saline moistened Tefla (damp not soaking) and placed into vial A (red lid).
- Use wet ice, sealed in a plastic bag to keep the muscle tissue cool. Use gel ice packs if wet ice is not available. Sandwich the combined fixative vial and red lidded vial A (no fixative) between the ice-filled biohazard bags in the provided Styrofoam container.
- Include any available patient information, such as current history of the patient and why they did the muscle biopsy. Include the completed UW Health Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Analysis Request form.
- If using cab or courier service, send container for delivery to:

Attn: Muscle & Nerve Lab
University Hospital
600 Highland Avenue
Call Jill upon receipt of specimen (608) 263-9184

If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.