

# **SURGICAL PATHOLOGY and BIOPSY SPECIMENS**

[General Information](#)

[Criteria for Specimen Rejection](#)

[Routine Processing of Surgical Specimens](#)

[Bone Marrow](#)

[Calculi \(Stones\)](#)

[Frozen Sections](#)

[Kidney Biopsy](#)

[Muscle Biopsy](#)

## **General Information**

The Histology Laboratories are located in Good Samaritan Hospital on the 7th floor and in Bethesda North Hospital in the Main Laboratory in the basement. The laboratory hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays except holidays, and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Anatomic Pathology Department number is 862-2639.

Surgical Pathology is a full service histology laboratory including specimen gross dictation and frozen section service. As with all laboratory samples, reliable and accurate results can be obtained only from specimens collected properly. Specimens submitted should be properly labeled with (at minimum) the patient's name and a second identifier such as date of birth. The label should be placed on the container itself; not on the lid. The specimen should be accompanied by an attached Surgical Pathology requisition/transmittal.

The requisition should be filled out completely and include:

- Patient label with name, hospital and room number
- Second patient identifier
- Specimen source
- Date and time of specimen collection
- Pertinent clinical information (pre-op, post-op)
- Requesting physician (surgeon)

## **Criteria for Specimen Rejection**

If a specimen is received unlabeled, mislabeled, or separated from its requisition, it will be rejected. If there is any conflict or concern about the specimen being difficult to replace or irreplaceable, or if the ordering physician demands that the specimen be tested regardless of the circumstances, laboratory personnel will have the medical director or designee contact the ordering physician directly to discuss the issue further.

If after consultation with the laboratory medical director, it is determined that the testing will be performed, then the ordering physician must take responsibility for the validity and integrity of the specimen. This verification will be accomplished by completion of the laboratory generated "Specimen Exception" form. The ordering physician is also responsible for communicating the situation to the patient involved.

## **Routine Processing of Surgical Specimens**

Immediately fix all specimens (except those requiring special procedures) in 10% buffered formalin. Complete the Surgical Pathology requisition/transmittal providing clinical information such as pre-op and post-op diagnosis, significant clinical information and previous history. Then arrange for specimens to be delivered to the Laboratory based on site procedures.

If fresh tissue is being sent to the Laboratory, deliver it immediately to the Gross Room at each hospital. If it is after hours, deliver it to the Central Receiving area of the Main Laboratory where it will be refrigerated.

If there are any questions, please telephone the Lab (GSH: 862-4020 or BNH: 865-4150).

### **Bone Marrow**

Call the Hematology Laboratory (GSH: 862-3218 or BNH: 865-1452).

### **Calculi (Stones)**

Send fresh calculi for analysis to the Laboratory accompanied by a Surgical Pathology requisition/transmittal.

### **Frozen Sections**

Specimens for frozen section must be sent fresh (no fixative), immediately to the Gross Room in the Laboratory with a Surgical Pathology requisition/transmittal slip. Surgery or OPSC must notify the Lab by phone (GSH: 862-4020 or BNH: 865-4150) that a frozen section specimen is being sent to the Lab. Surgery or OPSC personnel should deliver the specimen directly to Gross Room Lab personnel. NEVER leave the specimen on a counter! The supervisor of the Surgery nursing service must notify the Lab of late frozen cases and unscheduled frozen cases resulting in a specimen being sent to the Lab after 3:30 p.m. This notification must be made as soon as the surgery requiring a frozen section is scheduled or as soon as it is known that a frozen section will be needed. If a surgery requiring a frozen section is scheduled or takes place after 6 p.m., the operating room must notify the Main Laboratory by phone (GSH: 862-2391 or BNH: 865-1188) at least 30 minutes prior to needing the diagnosis.

### **Kidney Biopsy**

Notify the Anatomic Pathology lab at 862-2639 in advance of all kidney biopsies. Laboratory personnel are available to assist with this procedure.

## **Muscle Biopsy**

Please call the Gross Room Laboratory (GSH: 862-4020 or BNH: 865-4150) when a muscle biopsy is scheduled. Place fresh muscle biopsy in a closed container and deliver immediately to the Gross Room. Include a Surgical Pathology requisition/transmittal and a Muscle Biopsy History Form with each specimen. The Muscle Biopsy History Form can be obtained by calling the Gross Room.