



LYMPH NODE PROTOCOL

Some lymph nodes require special processing beyond standard fixation for diagnostic purposes. These lymph nodes usually require expedited delivery to Pacific Pathology Associates for processing.

Criteria for implementation of the Lymph Node Protocol:

1. Lymph nodes where lymphoma is suspected
2. Lymph nodes where an infectious process is suspected
3. Unexplained lymphadenopathy
4. Sentinel Lymph Nodes

REQUISITION

A Pathology Requisition form is filled out as usual with the following special instructions:

1. Clinical history including any history of prior malignancies or infections and duration of lymph node enlargement
2. Lymph node biopsy site
3. “**LYMPH NODE PROTOCOL**” written on requisition or check the appropriate box at bottom of the requisition form

SPECIMEN PREPARATION

Proper lymph node handling is extremely important.

1. The lymph node(s) should be wrapped in a sterile gauze pad moistened well with sterile saline solution.

***Important:** The lymph node should **not** be floating in the saline solution.

2. The specimen container is placed in a specimen biohazard bag with a small amount of wet ice, enough ice to keep the specimen cool during transport but **not** packed around the specimen.
3. Send specimen **IMMEDIATELY** to Pacific Pathology Associates via cab or courier during normal working hours (M-F, 8:00 AM - 5:00PM).
4. For biopsies performed after normal working hours, the surgical pathologist on call should be notified at the time of the procedure that a lymph node biopsy for lymph node protocol is being performed and will be sent for processing.

Pathology Policy reviewed June 30, 2009, no changes to previous policy dated Nov. 1, 2005.
By Mark J. Magilner, MD

For questions, please call the pathologist on call at (503) 561-5350.
For courier services or supplies, please call (503) 561-5390.