



SUBMISSION OF TISSUE FOR INTRAOPERATIVE CONSULTATION

Tissue submitted for frozen section analysis or intraoperative evaluation requires special handling and prompt delivery to Pacific Pathology Associates. Deviations from proper handling can potentially affect a surgical procedure.

NOTE: Frozen sections cannot be performed on tissue exposed to formalin fixative solution.

INTRAOPERATIVE CONSULTATION

An intraoperative consultation includes:

1. Frozen section examination
2. Cytological examination of a fine needle aspirate or touch preparation of a lesion obtained during an operative procedure
3. The gross examination of a specimen without a frozen section examination
4. A pathologist going into the operating room, at the request of the operating surgeon, to view a specimen in situ or an excised specimen for an opinion and/or orientation

A frozen section examination of tissue may be requested for one of the following reasons:

1. Establish a diagnosis that may alter the planned operative procedure
2. Determine that sufficient or appropriate tissue has been sampled in order to make a diagnosis
3. Confirm the adequacy of resection margins
4. Obtain additional unfixed tissue for special studies (i.e., culture, electron microscopy, biochemical analysis, immunophenotyping, flow cytometric studies)
5. Facilitate patient or family communication
6. Promote research or cancer protocol programs

REQUISITION FORMS

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

1. Clinical history including any prior malignancies
2. Operating Room call back number
3. "Frozen Section" or "Gross Exam" clearly marked on the requisition

SPECIMEN PREPARATION

Proper handling is extremely important.

1. Tissues designated for frozen section analysis or intraoperative evaluation must be submitted in the fresh state in a properly labeled sterile container. Small specimens should be submitted on gauze or telfa pads that have been lightly moistened with sterile saline solution.
2. The specimen container should be placed in a specimen biohazard bag for transport.
3. Send specimen **IMMEDIATELY** to Pacific Pathology Associates via cab or courier if during normal working hours (M-F, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).
4. For procedures performed after normal working hours, the surgical pathologist on call should be notified that a tissue sample for consultation is being obtained.

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.