



Tissue specimens collected by radiological guidance

Specimen collection

Core biopsies requiring histology and flow cytometry must be taken as 2 separate passes. The flow cytometry core should be placed directly into a specimen container containing sterile saline or RPMI.

All specimens for histopathology not requiring micro and culture or flow cytometry should be placed in 10% buffered Formalin as soon as possible after collection.

Fine Needle Aspirates for flow cytometry are to be sent in as separate needle passes rinsed in 2mls of sterile saline (or RPMI if at hand) after the cytology slides have been prepared.

Tissues, including core biopsies, requiring micro and culture and particularly if fungal and AFB culture are also required, cannot easily be shared with other departments. For small samples/core biopsies, the sample can be placed in a sterile container on sterile gauze moistened with sterile saline.

Labelling specimens

All specimens should be **clearly and legibly** labelled with the patient's full name, date of birth, date and time of collection, **site and type of specimen**. All specimens should be transported in specimen bags provided. Along with any request form generated in the radiology department, the original request form (or a copy) from the referring clinician **MUST** accompany the specimen.

Transport instructions

Those tissues where micro and culture and flow cytometry (eg. lymph nodes) is indicated should be transported fresh. An urgent courier should be requested to minimise tissue autolysis, and the laboratory notified of the impending specimen. The node/tissue should be kept at room temperature and transported to the laboratory in under 2 hours.

Please contact the laboratory if unsure of specimen transport requirements. Samples for flow cytometry should be received at latest by 1400hrs on a Friday to maximise the viability of the cells. Flow cytometry is not performed over the weekend. Please consider these limitations when booking patients for procedures.

For further collection information, please refer to our Test Collection Manual on our website - www.mps.com.au.

Contact numbers

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