

COLLECTION OF TISSUE FOR CULTURE

Collection of Specimens for Microbiology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results. Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- collection date and time

The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

Microbiology Swabs & Collection Containers:



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Tissue for Culture

Tissue for routine C&S should be collected in a sterile container. For small samples add several drops of sterile saline to the container to maintain moisture.

Maintain at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

A separate sample is optimal for each request

For Anaerobic Culture

If anaerobic culture is required then submit the tissue in a PORT-A-CUL anaerobic transport system.

Store at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

For TB Culture

Collect in a sterile container.

Store at room temperature and submit to the PHL laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection with a completed PHL requisition.

For Fungal Culture

Collect in a sterile container.

Store at room temperature and submit to the PHL laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection with a completed PHL requisition.