

SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR TISSUE BIOPSY



Specimen Handling and Transportation:

1. Specimens for routine tissue pathology must be submitted in a container of 10% neutral buffered formalin

Note: Biopsies for examination by direct immunofluorescence techniques must be submitted in a special transport medium [Michel Transport Medium or Universal Fixative].

2. Specimens collected from multiple sites must be collected in separate containers with the anatomic site indicated.
3. Specimen container(s) must be tightly sealed to ensure safe handling and quality patient results. Leaking specimen container(s) may result in poor fixation, illegible labeling and lost tissue samples.
4. Specimen(s) must be placed into a “Histology Specimen” poly bag. Multiple specimen containers can be placed in the same poly bag provided they are all Histology specimens from the same patient.
5. The completed Histology requisition must be placed in the separate pocket of the poly bag for this purpose (separated from the specimen container).
6. Specimens must be stored at room temperature and must not be subjected to freezing or extreme temperatures.
7. Specimens requiring expedited service must be clearly marked as such by the health care provider taking the sample. The typical designation is: ASAP.



See Instruction #5

Histology Collection Kit

The optimum volume of fixation is **10-20 times** of the specimen volume. There are two sizes of specimen containers routinely available for histology.

Kit components are ordered separately:

- 90 mL sterile container with 50 mL of histology preservative (10% neutral buffered formalin)
- 40 mL sterile container with 30 mL of histology preservative (10% neutral buffered formalin)
- Poly bag (small or large)
- Histology Requisition
- If larger specimen containers are required, contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre.
- If Michel Transport Medium is required for direct immunofluorescence techniques, contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre.



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Specimen Labeling:

All specimens should be clearly labeled **BEFORE** being sent to the laboratory for testing, to ensure correct identification of the patient and sample.

Each specimen/container must be labeled with:

- The patient's full name (printed in the same format as patient's health card)
- A second identifier such as date of birth or health card number
- Anatomic site of origin of the specimen

Specimen/container labeling options:

- Computer printed label affixed to the side of the specimen container.
- Clearly printed handwritten information on the sample vial label using indelible ink

Histology Requisition Information:

All specimens must be submitted for testing with a completed Histology Requisition.

A single patient requisition is used for up to 8 specimen sites. Once completed, it must be placed in one of the poly bags associated with the specimen containers/case.

If more than 8 specimens are submitted for one patient, two separate requisitions must be completed.

The following information must be provided in a **legible format**:

Patient Information:

- Full name of patient (printed in the same format as patient's health card)
- Health card number
- Date of birth
- Date of specimen collection
- Time of specimen collection and formalin fixation (breast specimens only)
- Specimen site (up to 8 per requisition)
- Pertinent clinical information

Health Care Provider Information:

- Full name, address and billing number of the ordering health care provider
- Full name, address (and billing number if known) of any copy-to physicians



CAUTION: The preservative contains Formaldehyde Solution. Do not drink. If ingested, do not induce vomiting; call your doctor or local poison control center immediately. Vapor may be harmful if inhaled; use with adequate ventilation. Avoid contact with skin and eyes.