

Specimen Requirements

FOR SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

ALWAYS include white and yellow requisition copies in the specimen bag's pouch pocket (keep pink copy for your records). If you use an EMR, please print out a copy of the e-requisition and include it with each specimen. When labeling specimen, always include **two forms of patient identifiers** – patient's name and patient's Date of Birth (D.O.B.) and/or Social Security number. Patient's specimen **must be labeled** in the presence of the patient (or patient's representative).

Histology

SPECIMEN:

WE ACCEPT ALL BIOPSIES AND EXCISION SPECIMENS FROM ALL SITES INCLUDING BREAST AND TONSIL

- **Formalin-fixed Tissue Biopsy** (use formalin container)
- **Paraffin-embedded Biopsy**
- **Unstained Slides** - POSITIVELY CHARGED SLIDES ONLY
- **Nail** (use formalin container) Nail biopsy specimens are accepted in formalin container preferably, but we will accept nail specimens in sterile container. We do not offer KOH and/or Podiatric Culture & Sensitivity Testing, including Wound Culture.

ACUPATH PERFORMS BOTH FLOW CYTOMETRY AND HISTOLOGY / NON-GYN CYTOLOGY TESTING ON THE SAME SPECIMEN FOR LYMPHOMA EVALUATIONS. Please split the specimen and submit in the proper media*.

**See requirements below for Histology, Non-Gyn Cytology and Flow Cytometry.*

TRANSPORT:

- **For Breast Biopsy:** All breast core biopsies must be fixed in formalin for 6-8 hours prior to arrival at laboratory. **Client must also state on requisition the time removed from the patient and the time the specimen was put into the formalin. (Cold Ischemic Time)**
- **For prostate biopsy:** Acupath provides 9 core or 12 core prostate kits. Place specimen in prefilled 10% formalin fixative container. Each container should be labeled with patient's name, location of specimen and physician who performed procedure (see labels on requisitions). Place specimen containers in tray in biopsy kit. **Please Discard Any Unused Containers.**
- **For all other biopsies:** Place in biopsy container with 10% formalin fixative (use formalin container) and seal lid tightly or place contained slides or paraffin blocks in Acupath biohazard specimen bag and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. All containers and slides must be labeled with the patient's name and either D.O.B. or Social Security number. When possible, write the location/type of specimen and physician who performed the procedure. **During the summer months, use a cold pack when shipping a block. Blocks received melted in transit will be re-embedded.**

SLIDES MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY LABELED IN PENCIL WITH PATIENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.

Non-Gyn Cytology

SPECIMEN:

- **Urine** (voided, catheterized, bladder wash, ureteral wash, pelvic wash)
- **Fine Needle Aspiration / direct smears and/or fluid material**
- **Sputum**
- **Joint fluid** – For non-gyn cytology or crystal identification
 - **Bronchial Brushing / Direct Smears**
 - **Bronchial Washing**
 - **Bronchio-alveolar Lavage**
 - **Brushings / Direct Smears**
 - **Brushings / Brush tip**

A leaking container can compromise the fixation and integrity or stability of the specimen.

TRANSPORT (DO NOT SUBMIT ANY CYTOLOGY SPECIMENS IN FORMALIN):

- **Urine:** Submit at least 40-50ml of urine in prefilled ThinPrep® PreservCyt Solution container and seal lid tightly.
- **Fine Needle Aspiration / direct smears and/or fluid material:** Use Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA) tube, ThinPrep® CytoLyt Solution, orange tube top.
- **Brushings / Direct Smears:** Slides should be received fixed in 70% ethyl alcohol slide container; however, we will accept dry slides. **Please note on requisition the site and side of the brushing.**
- **Brushings / Brush tip:** Submit brush tip in ThinPrep® CytoLyt Solution tube, orange tube top. **Please note on requisition the site and side of the brushing.**
- **Bronchial Brushing / Direct Smears:** Slides should be received in 70% ethyl alcohol slide container. Please do not submit dry slides. If you are unable to provide slides, submit bronchial brushing specimen or brush tip in ThinPrep® CytoLyt Solution tube, orange tube top. **Please note on requisition the site and side of the brushing.**
- **Bronchial Washing:** Submit at least 10ml of washing in ThinPrep® CytoLyt Solution tube, orange tube top. **Please note on requisition the site and side of the washing.**
- **Bronchio-alveolar Lavage:** Collect lavage in empty container and add ThinPrep® CytoLyt Solution in equal proportion to the specimen. **Please note on requisition the site and side of the lavage.**
- **Sputum:** Collect sputum in empty container and add ThinPrep® CytoLyt Solution in equal proportion to the specimen. Ensure the specimen is sputum from the respiratory tract. Do not submit saliva.
- **Joint fluid – For non-gyn cytology:** Must submit fresh specimen in sterile container without using any type of fixative.
- **Joint fluid – For crystal identification:** Must submit fresh specimen in sterile container without using any type of fixative. Please do not send the needle with the specimen. Note: If specimen is obtained by syringe and the specimen volume or quality will be compromised by transfer from syringe to sterile container, we will accept syringe, however, the needle must be removed from the syringe and the syringe capped. The syringe must be labeled with proper patient identifiers.

Containers, tubes and syringes should be labeled with the patient's name, D.O.B. or Social Security number, location/type of specimen and physician who performed the procedure. **SLIDES MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY LABELED IN PENCIL WITH PATIENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.** Place containers, tubes and syringes in Acupath specimen bag, and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. If using cytology kit, place specimen tube and slide container in corresponding slots in tray located in cytology kit. Remove tray from cytology kit, place in biohazard specimen bag, then seal bag. Place tray back in cytology kit with **ALL** paperwork and close kit tight. **PLEASE DISCARD ANY UNUSED TUBES AND CONTAINERS.** Needles must be removed from all syringes, and the syringe must be capped.



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FISH (fluorescence in situ hybridization)

FISH for Breast Cancer - PathVysion™

SPECIMEN:

- **Formalin-fixed Tissue Biopsy** (use formalin container)
- **Paraffin-embedded Biopsy**

TRANSPORT: **For Breast Biopsy** - All breast core biopsies must be fixed in formalin for 6-8 hours prior to arrival at laboratory. **Client must also state on requisition the time removed from the patient and the time the specimen was put into the formalin.** Place in biopsy container with 10% formalin fixative (use formalin container) and seal lid tightly or place paraffin blocks in Acupath biohazard specimen bag and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. All containers must be labeled with the patient's name and either D.O.B. or Social Security number. When possible, write the location/type of specimen and physician who performed the procedure. **During the summer months, use a cold pack when shipping a block. Blocks received melted in transit will be re-embedded.**

AcuProbe® FISH for Melanoma and/or Spitz Nevus

SPECIMEN:

- **Formalin-fixed Tissue Biopsy** (use formalin container)
- **Paraffin-embedded Biopsy**

TRANSPORT: Place in biopsy container with 10% formalin fixative (use formalin container) and seal lid tightly. Place containers or paraffin blocks in Acupath biohazard specimen bag and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. All containers must be labeled with the patient's name and either D.O.B. or Social Security number. When possible, write the location/type of specimen and physician who performed the procedure. **During the summer months, use a cold pack when shipping a block. Blocks received melted in transit will be re-embedded.**

FISH for Bladder Cancer Recurrence - UroVysion™

SPECIMEN:

- **Urine** (40-50ml, voided, urine specimen container, ThinPrep® PreservCyt Solution)

TRANSPORT: Place 40-50ml **non-mixed** urine into provided containers. The urine should be mixed in a 2:1 ratio with ThinPrep® PreservCyt Solution. (i.e. if patient excretes 40ml of urine, then urine specimen should be mixed with 20ml of ThinPrep® PreservCyt Solution=60 ml of liquid in container).

If the voided urine is not immediately collected, then keep at 4-8 degree °C until it is picked up to prevent degradation of the cells. If the preferred collection preservative is unavailable, then only 70% Ethanol in a 2:1 ratio should be used as a substitute.

Container should be labeled with patient's name, D.O.B. or Social Security number, location of specimen and physician who performed procedure. Place container into Acupath specimen bag, and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. If sending slides, please make sure the slides fit properly in the container. If the slide is difficult to put in, don't force it. The slide gets jammed in the container. This imposes a risk of damage to the slide upon removal.

AcuProbe® PTEN and AcuProbe® ERG – for Prostate Cancer Prognosis*

**Acupath's pathologists will identify most abnormal core for FISH*

SPECIMEN:

- **Formalin-fixed Prostate Cores** (use formalin containers provided in prostate kit)
- **Paraffin-embedded Biopsy**

TRANSPORT: Acupath provides 9 core or 12 core prostate kits. Place specimen in prefilled 10% formalin fixative container. Each container should be labeled with patient's name and either D.O.B. or Social Security number, location of specimen and physician who performed procedure (see labels on requisitions). Place specimen containers in tray in biopsy kit. **Please Discard Any Unused Containers.** Place kit or paraffin blocks in Acupath biohazard specimen bag and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. **During the summer months, use a cold pack when shipping a block. Blocks received melted in transit will be re-embedded.**

Frozen Section Evaluation

SPECIMEN:

- **Fresh Tissue** (use sterile container)

TRANSPORT: Tissue in frozen section evaluation should be submitted in a **sterile container**. Must be prearranged with the pathologist, histology staff and the couriers, and delivered to the laboratory within 10-15 minutes of collection. The specimen should be kept cool—on an ice pack or moist in saline gauze and brought to the laboratory immediately. Include **ALL** paperwork.

Direct Immunofluorescence (DIF)

SPECIMEN:

- **Skin or Mucous Membrane** (place in **MICHEL'S FIXATIVE – Container with Bright Pink Label, DO NOT PLACE IN FORMALIN**)

TRANSPORT: All specimens undergoing DIF should be immediately placed in **MICHEL'S FIXATIVE** supplied by Acupath Laboratories, Inc. DIF specimens placed in fixative other than Michel's fixative will be rejected. All DIF specimens should arrive in the laboratory within 24 hours of removal from the patient.

Containers must have the patient's name and D.O.B. or Social Security number, location/type of specimen and physician who performed the procedure on lime green label. Place containers in Acupath biohazard specimen bag, and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch.



Specimen Requirements

FOR SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

Flow Cytometry

SPECIMEN:

Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA)/Tissue (Submit in complete **RPMI media**, 4°C). **Note:** RPMI media is a pink solution that may be requested from Acupath Laboratories. When ordering supplies, specify RPMI media tubes.

Cerebral Spinal Fluid Must submit in sterile container without using any type of fixative.

TRANSPORT: **ALL** FNA/Tissue should be transported in complete **RPMI media** at 4°C **with cold pack(s)**. Label each tube and/or container with the patient ID, and attach label to each specimen. Insert tubes and containers into small zip-lock specimen bag and seal the plastic zipper along its entire track. Remember to keep the specimen cold with cold packs (may be requested from Acupath).

Molecular Genetics

SPECIMEN:

For Infectious Agents (HPV) by In Situ Hybridization (ISH):

- **Formalin-fixed Tissue Biopsy** (use formalin container)
- **Paraffin-embedded Biopsy**

TRANSPORT: Place in biopsy container with 10% formalin fixative (use formalin container) and seal lid tightly. Place containers or paraffin blocks in Acupath biohazard specimen bag and zip pouch. Insert **ALL** paperwork in rear pouch. All containers must be labeled with the patient's name and either D.O.B. or Social Security number. When possible, write the location/type of specimen and physician who performed the procedure. **During the summer months, use a cold pack when shipping a block. Blocks received melted in transit will be re-embedded.**



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