

Anatomic Pathology

All specimens must be labeled with patient name, date and submitting physician. The hospital number should be included if available. The Anatomic Pathology Request Form must be completed, including pertinent patient history signed by the requesting physician and delivered with the specimen. Unlabeled specimens will not be accepted. The Anatomic Pathology Laboratory Manager may be contacted at 1-800-433-0740 or 317-491-6000 to respond to questions or concerns for all areas of anatomic pathology.

General Guidelines for Histopathology

Receipt of Specimens

1. Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM: Fresh specimens collected in the operating room should be delivered IMMEDIATELY to the Surgery Pathology Laboratory.
 - a. The specimen container should be labeled with the patient's name, hospital number, date, and anatomic source.
 - b. The request form should be completed and delivered with the specimen.
2. After hours, specimens from all other locations should be delivered to the Main Laboratory Receiving Area - OR any outpatient location. The specimen should be placed in a container of fixative (available from the lab).

Because Anatomic Pathology is not a 24-hour/7 day per week operation, please note that the listed turnaround times are based on time of accession and not necessarily the actual time a specimen arrives in the laboratory. Pathology is a complex science and depending on the complexity of the diagnosis may take longer than the stated times. These times are based on an average turnaround time.

TURNAROUND TIME TABLE	
Frozen Sections (inpatient only).	15 - 20 minutes
Surgical specimens	1 - 2 working days
Electron microscopy studies:	
Muscle biopsies, H & E studies	1 -2 working days
Muscle biopsies, special stains	2 - 4 working days
Muscle biopsies, EM studies	7 - 10 days
Renal biopsies, H & E studies	1 day
Renal biopsies, special stains	1 day
Renal biopsies, EM studies	2 days
Tissue specimens for transplant rejection:	
Received by 11:00 AM weekdays	4:00 P.M. same day
Received after 11:00 AM weekdays	8:00 A.M. next day
Cytology specimens:	
GYN (pap smears).	7 - 10 working days
Non-gynecologic	1 - 2 working days
Fine needle aspiration	1 - 2 working days

Autopsy Notification

1. The RHC Log is maintained in Security. Autopsy notification follows standard hospital policies.
2. For information, 317-491-6000 for adults and 317-274-2616 for pediatrics.

3. Autopsy reports (final reports completed within 60 days of autopsy) are sent to Medical Records, attending physician, primary care physician, if available, and chief medical resident.

Histopathology and Cytopathology Reports

1. Reports available via telephone inquiry to 317-491-6000
2. Final reports delivered to the patient care units, physicians' offices and Medical Records.

General Guidelines for Special Procedures

Histologic Studies

1. Immunoperoxidase stains, immunofluorescent stains, routine tissue processing (gross and microscopic exam), and surgical tissue processing.
2. Fresh tissue is required for frozen sections, lymph nodes for lymphoma work-up, and placentas for genetic studies.
3. For any other special procedure, contact the Surgical Pathological Lab at 317-491-6000, Monday through Friday, between 8:00AM and 4:30 PM. After hours contact the pathologist on-call.

Electron Microscopy Studies

Muscle Biopsies –

1. Submit fresh muscle biopsy or muscle fragments fixed in 3% Glutaraldehyde for electron microscopy studies.
2. See www.iuhealth.org/pathologylab/pathologyservicesandconsultation/neuropathology or call 317-491-6000 for more information.

Renal Biopsy Collection

1. The preferred procedure to obtain kidney tissue is a **needle biopsy**, which may be done blindly, by percutaneous puncture under direct radiologic control; openly, under direct visual control. See www.iuhealth.org/pathologylab/pathologyservicesandconsultation/renalpathology. Call the laboratory to obtain the appropriate kits for renal collection at 317-491-6000.
2. Tissue from the cortex is required since glomeruli must be present for diagnosis. However, submit all tissue for study.
3. Tissue will be used to perform three studies, therefore a minimum of three cores if possible should be submitted.
4. If less than three cores are submitted, division of each core should be thus: EM | LM | IM | EM
 - a. Submit tissue for EM in 2.5% Glutaraldehyde ASAP
 - b. Submit tissue for LM in 10% buffered formalin
 - c. Submit tissue for IM in Michel's fixative

Endomyocardial Biopsy and Liver Biopsy for Rejection

1. The labeled specimen with completed request form should be delivered to the Surgery Pathology Laboratory.
2. The Surgery Pathology technician should be notified of biopsy when delivered.
3. Specimens received in the Surgical Pathology Lab by 11:00 AM will be processed as a “super quick” with results available by 5:00 PM.