

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY/ HISTOLOGY

- **ROUTINE HISTOLOGY:**

- Biopsies or other tissue for pathology examination should ordinarily be submitted in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin in appropriately sized specimen containers with a fixative volume at least 15-20 times the volume of the tissue. Patient and specimen identification should be present on both the specimen container and accompanying the pathology requisition. **Specimens should be labeled with two patient identifiers , type of tissue specimen and location of specimen.**
- Relevant clinical history should be provided on the requisition.

- **OTHER FIXATIVES**

- Special considerations for evaluation of certain tissues may favor the use of a fixative other than prefer in some instances, including the following:
 - Tissue for gout (mono sodium urate) crystal identification should be submitted in absolute alcohol or submitted fresh to avoid dissolution of the crystals in aqueous solution.
 - Kidney biopsies: Kidney biopsies for evaluation of medical renal diseases (not tumors) should be scheduled with Pathology at 9021.

- **FRESH TISSUE**

- Tissues should be submitted fresh (without fixative) in the instances listed below. Saline or saline-moistened gauze may be used to prevent drying of tissue. Fresh tissue should be transported promptly to the histology laboratory.
 - Microbiological cultures of the tissue are requested.
 - Frozen section diagnosis is needed.
 - Chromosomal studies: Tissue for chromosomal or cytogenetic studies should be submitted fresh or in a sterile saline.
 - Lymphoma: If lymphoma is suspected, submit tissue fresh for possible flow cytometry or gene rearrangement studies. Send to histology ASAP during working hours.
 - Muscle or nerve biopsies: It is recommended that these biopsies be performed in the morning when the courier service is available. Call Histology at 9553 to schedule this. **A pertinent history and physical or consultation should accompany the biopsy.** Send to histology ASAP during working hours
 - Immunofluorescence: Biopsies in which immunofluorescence studies are requested, such as skin biopsies in suspected immune-mediated disorders, should be submitted fresh or in Michel's (tissue preservative). Send to histology ASAP during working hours.