

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

Phone: 585-922-4121

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The Anatomic Pathology Department is located on the Ground Floor of Rochester General Hospital within the Laboratories.

Hours of Operation:

The Department of Pathology is staffed Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Pathologists are available and on-call for intraoperative consultations in the Operating Room at any hour every day. They are available to review material and slides with the medical staff weekdays until 5:00 p.m.

Department Sections:

Administration: 585-922-9870

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Michael Burns, Pathologist Assistant (ASCP)	585-922-4129
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Jenna Leyendecker, Pathologist Assistant (ASCP)	585-922-4129
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Histology:	585-922-4322
Randy Todd, HT Supervisor, Histology	585-922-4943

Morgue:	585-922-4226
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Preservation of Tissue Samples:

As a general rule (see exceptions below) specimens should be submitted in Formalin Fixative. The following specimens should **not** be placed in formalin:

<u>Specimen Type</u>	<u>Preservation</u>
Lymph Node	Saline Sponge*
Specimens for Frozen Section*	Saline Sponge*

***Immediately** place the specimen between two saline **dampened gauze sponges** and place in a dry specimen container. Do not float the specimen in saline. The specimen must be brought to the Pathology Department **immediately**.

The following specimens require at least **24 hour notice** to the Pathology Laboratory:

Buccal Mucosa and Skin Biopsy for Immunofluorescence Processing
Kidney Biopsy
Muscle Biopsy
Cardiac Biopsy (transplant) to be sent out
Brain Biopsy when CJD is in the differential diagnosis

Submitting of Tissue Samples:

Tissue specimens submitted from different anatomic sites or procured by different techniques **must** be submitted in separate containers.

Do not place a very small specimen in the same container as a large specimen. Use separate containers for each specimen.

Example: Liver - wedge biopsy
Liver - core needle biopsy

Labeling:

1. **Do not** pre-label container prior to collecting specimen.
2. Always label the **sides** of the container; **never** the top.
3. Check the labeled specimen to ensure that all required information is on the specimen container: patient name, physician name, and specimen type.
4. Check that the information on the specimen container matches that on the Surgical Pathology requisition form.
5. All specimens removed at the time of surgery are to be forwarded to the designated collection area for transportation to the Pathology Department.

Pathology Requisition Form: MUST be filled out completely, to include the following:

<u>In Patient</u>	<u>Out Patient</u>
Patient Name	Patient Name and Social Security Number
DOB – Age	DOB - Age
Sex of Patient	Sex of Patient
Medical Record Number	Address
Hospital Number	Billing Information (All insurance numbers)
Physician Name	Physician Name
Specimen Type & Location	Specimen Type & Location
History (Clinical Information)	History (Clinical Information and Diagnosis)
Physician Signature	Physician Signature

All hand written information must be printed.

Transport of Surgical Specimens to Pathology:

1. Pathology personnel will pick up specimens from the OR at the following times each work day: Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; and 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
2. Place specimen container in a bio-hazard bag and seal shut. Place the requisition in the pocket flap of the bio-hazard bag. **NEVER** place the requisition in the specimen part of the bag.
3. When transporting several specimens, use a cart or a tote to prevent the possibility of dropping specimens.
4. Log books in the O.R. and Surgical Pathology must be utilized for all deliveries & pickups.

Transporting Outpatient Surgical Specimens:

RGHS Laboratory Services will provide transportation for outpatient tissue specimens as follows:

1. Hours:
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Noon.
2. The Rochester Regional Health Laboratories provide free daily pick up and delivery service. Couriers pick up specimens on a pre-arranged schedule.
3. Special pick-ups can be arranged by calling Client Services at **922-LABS** during the hour's stated above. Special pick-ups should be requested for all **rush** specimens, specimens requiring frozen sections or specimens submitted fresh (saline). "**RUSH**" should be clearly written on the biohazard bag and on the requisition. The courier should also be informed that the specimen is a "**RUSH**" specimen for pathology.
4. Specimens will be placed in a biohazard bag; the pathology requisition will be placed in the pocket flap of the biohazard bag. **NEVER** place the requisition in the specimen part of the bag.

Transport of Surgical Specimens from Newark Wayne Community Hospital:

Rochester Regional Health Laboratory Services will provide transportation for surgical tissue specimens as follows:

1. Specimens will be picked up at the collection station at Newark Wayne Community Hospital at approximately 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each day during the week for delivery to the Pathology Department at Rochester General Hospital.
2. Specimens will be carried in an ice chest type container to keep the specimens cool.
3. Specimens will be left in the specimen processing area of the department during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
4. Between the hours of 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. specimens will be left in the surgical trim room area refrigerator.

Amputated Limb – Rochester General Hospital:

1. The amputated limb will be:
 - wrapped and an identifying label placed on the wrap
 - placed in a bag and a second label placed on the outside of the bag
2. Surgical transport will deliver the limb and surgical request sheet to the Surgical Pathology Department Trim Room. Place the limb in the specimen refrigerator and put the requisition in the holder on the refrigerator door.

Amputated Limb – Newark Wayne Community Hospital:

The laboratory at Newark Wayne Community Hospital will contact the **Funeral Director at 585-233-1763** to arrange for the pick up and transport of amputated limbs from Newark Wayne Community Hospital to Rochester General Hospital.

Genetic Studies - Doctor's Offices, Newark Wayne Community Hospital, Clifton Springs Hospital, United Memorial Medical Center:

Tissue for Genetic Studies (usually products of conception) should be submitted fresh (**no formalin**) and sent to the Pathology Department as a "**RUSH**" specimen for immediate evaluation and tissue preparation. The pathology requisition should clearly request chromosome analysis. If a need for genetic studies arises at night or on the weekends, the pathologist on call should be immediately contacted through the Rochester General Hospital page operator.

Rochester General Hospital In-House Procedure for Obtaining Products of Conception/Fetal Tissue for Chromosome Analysis

The specimen must be divided into separate containers if both chromosome analysis and histologic examination by pathology is desired.

Specimen Handling for Chromosome Analysis:

1. Tissue for chromosome analysis should be collected using **sterile technique** and placed in **sterile saline**. Fetal tissues such as lung, kidney, liver, periumbilical skin, or tendon are suitable (extremities are not). Placental tissue is also acceptable if fetal tissue is not present.
2. The amount of tissues collected should equal the size of an adult's fifth fingernail.
3. The specimen should be sent **immediately** to the Rochester General Hospital Hematology Lab on the ground floor of the hospital with a Strong Memorial Hospital chromosome analysis requisition completed by the attending physician. Hematology is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (hematology extension 2-4424).
4. Results usually take three (3) weeks.

Specimen Handling for Histologic Examination by Pathology:

1. Any excess tissue not used for chromosome analysis should be placed in formalin. A surgical pathology specimen requisition should be completed by the attending physician.
2. The specimen in formalin may be delivered to surgical pathology via the usual specimen delivery system.

Specimens Requiring Special Handling:

Renal Biopsies

Biopsies are sent to Ohio State University for processing. Immunofluorescent light microscopy and electron microscopy results are usually available within seven (7) days.

Muscle Biopsies: (for light microscopy and enzyme histochemistry)

Muscle biopsies may be scheduled Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. with a 24 hour advance notice except in emergency situations. After hours/weekends/holidays are emergency situations; notify the Pathologist on call.

At least 1.5 cm x 0.5 cm of muscle should be taken from an area of no previous trauma, injections, or recent electromyographic examinations. In general, the muscle selected must be moderately involved to avoid advanced degenerative changes of severely diseased muscle. Proximal muscles are the best choice in proximal muscle syndromes (polymyositis) and the gastrocnemius would be best for distal muscle syndromes (peripheral neuropathies). It may also be helpful to include a 1 x 0.2 cm ellipse of skin when inflammatory disease is being considered.

The biopsy **MUST** be placed on **dampened** (not floating) saline gauze and placed in an appropriate labeled container. All muscle biopsies must be delivered to the Pathology Department **immediately**

upon removal along with a **complete** clinical history, physicians' names (not just surgeon's), and complete patient information.

Biopsies are sent to Strong Memorial Hospital with results usually taking 10 to 15 days. In emergency situations, verbal reports may be available sooner.

Skin and Mucosal Biopsied for Immunofluorescent Studies:

Fresh unfixed skin and/or mucosal biopsies may be sent Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with a 24 hour advance notice except in an emergency situation. After hours/weekends/holidays are emergency situations; notify the Pathologist on-call as soon as possible.

Biopsies are performed using standard biopsy techniques.

Prior to the skin and/or mucosal biopsy, an Immunopathology Kit may be obtained from the Pathology Department. Each kit contains the following:

For immunofluorescent studies, biopsy specimen should be at least 3-4 mm in diameter and placed immediately into a **red "Lesion"** tube or **blue "Normal"** tube marked for immunofluorescence.

For histopathologic studies, lesional biopsy specimens should be placed in **Green** tubes containing buffered **formalin** or may be placed in the regular specimen jars containing 10% buffered formalin obtained from the Pathology Department.

Specimens for serum serologic test should be collected without anticoagulants. Red top vacutainer or equivalent tubes can be used for this purpose or placed into the **"Orange"** tube marked **"Serum"**. Approximately 5 to 10 ml of blood should be collected. Serum samples do not have to be cooled or frozen.

OR

The fresh unfixed biopsy of skin and/or mucosal tissue **MUST** be placed on **dampened** (not floating) saline gauze and placed in an appropriate labeled container. All fresh unfixed skin and/or mucosal biopsies must be delivered to the Pathology Department **immediately** upon removal along with a **complete** clinical history, physician's name, and complete patient information.

Preferred Biopsy Sites:

Connective Tissue Diseases:

Discoid LE: a lesional skin biopsy preferably from an untreated, sun-exposed area that is 30 to 60 days old. Older lesions are more frequently positive.

SLE, SCLE, MCTD: normal skin; preferably a sun-exposed area (e.g. wrist).

Scleroderma, PM/DM: lesional biopsy of skin or muscle

Vesicular Bullous Diseases:

Pemphigus, Pemphigoid, EBA, herpes gestationis and desquamative gingivitis, linear IgA bullous dermatosis and other associated bullous disorders, the first biopsy should be taken from the edge of the lesion, preferably a fresh one.

Dermatitis herpetiformis: a biopsy of a normal skin close to a lesion is suggested.

For mucosal biopsies, a second specimen from a clinically normal site is also recommended.

Porphyria cutanea tarda: lesional biopsy.

Vasculitis:

Leukocytoclastic vasculitis, Henoch Schönlein purpura, essential mixed cryoglobulinemia or polyarteritis nodosa, the earliest lesions (<24 hours if possible) should be biopsied.

Fresh biopsies should be hand delivered as soon after removal as possible. When using the Immunopathology Kits, all tubes should be placed into the styrofoam container and topped with the absorbent pad after labeling each tube with the patients name, date, and type of biopsy. Securing the container with a rubber band will help to hold the tubes in place during transport. The container should then be placed into a biohazard bag along with the completed Pathology requisition. Biopsies placed immediately into the appropriate tube may be sent to the Pathology Department as soon as possible by your regular delivery service.

Gene Rearrangement (Lymphomas):

Fresh unfixed tumor tissue may be sent Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. After hours/weekends/holidays, notify the on-call Pathologist for arrangements. The tissue is submitted on dampened saline gauze and **hand delivered** to the Pathology Department. A completed Pathology requisition should be forwarded with the specimen. Results usually take two (2) weeks.

Cell Markers (Lymphomas):

Fresh unfixed tumor tissue may be sent Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The tissue should be submitted in RPMI cell media (may be obtained from Flow Cytometry Lab) or on a sterile dampened saline gauze. Tissue should be kept at 2-8°C. The specimen must be **hand delivered** to the Pathology Department. A completed Pathology requisition should be forwarded with the specimen which contains the date and time sample was obtained and the diagnosis (very important). Results may take one (1) week.

Quantitative Iron in Livers:

Specimens may be sent Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30. p.m. After hours/weekends/holidays, liver biopsies may be placed in the specimen refrigerator located in specimen processing. The biopsy should be clearly marked for "Iron quantitation" and have a completed Pathology requisition attached. The whole liver biopsy specimen is sent for this study. Liver biopsy specimens are placed into a fresh jar of 10% Buffered Neutral Formalin immediately after removal.

IMMUNOPATHOLOGY

Immunohistochemistry:

Patient Preparation: Standard biopsy and/or surgical procedures are used. A wide variety of Immunoperoxidase procedures are performed on paraffin embedded tissue samples on a daily basis. Consultation with the primary pathologist is required.

ESTROGEN, PROGESTERONE AND HER/2/NEU STUDIES

Patient Preparation: Standard biopsy and/or surgical procedures are used.

Studies on paraffin embedded tissue sections are available. Consultation with the primary Pathologist is required.

Biopsies and excisions should be clearly marked with the time the tissue is placed in formalin and the time the tissue is removed from the patient.

If tissue is being sent fresh, the provider should consult with a pathologist.