

Instructions for Preparation and Shipment of Specimens

- Specimen size of muscle should be approximately 1 – 2 cm³; nerve tissue should be at least 3 cm long.

For Muscle or Nerve Tissue to be delivered same day of biopsy:

- Wrap specimen in saline dampened gauze; place in biohazard bag or container labeled with patient name and date of birth. Place on cool wet ice or cool packs.
- Biopsies delivered same day must be received by the lab no later than 4 p.m. (Monday – Friday, except holidays).
- All specimen container and requisition must match in order to be accepted by the lab.
- Contact our lab at (205)934-2127 so that we may track your specimen to ensure delivery.
- The time between biopsy surgery and delivery to lab should not exceed 4 – 6 hours. If this time requirement cannot be met, see the instructions for freezing specimen.

For Muscle or Nerve Tissue to be delivered overnight:

- Blot tissue with absorbent towel to extract excess moisture before snap freezing.
- Muscle: Snap freeze entire specimen using isopentane (approximately 25 ml) in a metal container cooled in liquid nitrogen for 10 – 15 seconds. Place in container on dry ice (5-7 pounds) and ship via FedEx Express First Overnight.
- Nerve: Cut a 1 cm piece from the central portion of the nerve and place in 4% glutaraldehyde. Send this packaged separately from the dry ice so as not to freeze. Snap freeze remaining specimen using the instructions for muscle listed above.
- All specimen container and requisition labeling must match in order to be accepted by the lab.
- Contact our lab at (205)934-2127 so that we may track your specimen to ensure delivery.

Delivery Address:

The Shin J. Oh Muscle and Nerve Histopathology Laboratory at UAB

1720 7th Avenue South

Sparks Center 427

Birmingham, AL 35233

- Expect final report in 7 – 14 days
- Questions: Call the lab at (205)934-2127