

**University of Rochester
Neuromuscular Laboratory
575 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester NY 14642
585 275-1330**

SPECIMEN HANDLING, PROCESSING, AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

Procedure for Punch Skin Biopsy:

A standard biopsy to look for a distal small fiber sensory neuropathy includes a

If you have questions regarding these protocols, please call Don Henderson (585) 275-1330.

Sample Fixation and Preparation for Shipping:

This is a very critical step as proper fixation is essential for proper staining and interpretation. We will provide kits to all outside referring physicians that will include all the necessary tubes and solutions. **These kits have a shelf life of 2 weeks. The tubes for the thigh will be labeled proximal thigh-hip. The lateral distal leg tubes will be labeled ankle.**

The specimens should be placed in Tube A (PLP fixative) as soon as they are removed from the patient.

The specimens should remain in Tube A for 12-24 hours. The samples should be stored in the refrigerator during this time. If the samples stay in fixative for longer than 24 hours the results of the test will be compromised.

The specimens should be transferred to Tube B (Saline Solution) for 15 minutes.

The specimens should then be placed in Tube C (Shipping Buffer).

At this point the samples should be stored in the refrigerator until they can be shipped to Rochester.

Materials Needed for Skin Biopsy:

1. (1) Field drape-This is non fenestrated and is used to create a sterile field to place items needed for biopsy. We use the standard towel drapes
2. (1) Sterile gloves
3. (10) Alcohol pads/wipes
4. (1) Insulin syringe
5. (1) 3 mm biopsy punch
6. (1) Disposable scalpel #10 with handle
7. (1) Disposable forceps
8. (5) Sterile 4x4 cover sponges
9. Micropore tape
10. (6) Antibiotic ointment-Bacitracin double antibiotic
11. 1% Lidocaine with Epinephrine

Shipping Information:

Dept. of Neurology Rm. 5-5329
575 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester NY 14642

Contact Information:

Don Henderson
E-mail don_Henderson@urmc.rochester.edu
FAX: (585) 273-1255
Phone: (585) 275-1330