

Electron Microscopy

Arrangements

Prior to surgery contact the F.C. Blodi Eye Pathology Laboratory (319-335-7095) and ask to speak with the ocular pathologist to determine if Electron Microscopy is necessary for the patient's care or if another test would be more informative.

Fixative

2.5% Glutaraldehyde and 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin

Special instructions

- i.** Prior to surgery obtain the following:
 - a)** 50 ml specimen container of 2.5% Glutaraldehyde.
 - i)** Label the specimen container with the patient's name, date of birth, physician's name, specimen type (ie: cornea, left eye) and percentage of Glutaraldehyde in the bottle.
 - b)** A specimen container with the correct amount of 10% neutral buffered formalin in it.
 - i)** The amount of formalin in the container will vary with the size of the specimen; however, the fixative should be a minimum of ten times the volume of the specimen being fixed.
 - ii)** A formalin warning label on the specimen container.
 - iii)** Label with the patient's name, surgeon's name and type and location of the specimen (ie: cornea, left eye) on the specimen container.
 - c)** An Ocular Pathology Consultation Request form.
- ii.** Immediately after removing the tissue from the patient, place half of the tissue into the 2.5% Glutaraldehyde and the other half of the tissue into the 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin.
 - a)** Fill out the Ocular Pathology Consultation Request form completely, using the instructions found under General Information on Collection and Handling of Specimens.
 - i)** When filling out the request form make sure to indicate that one specimen is in 2.5% Glutaraldehyde and that the other is in 10% neutral buffered formalin (i.e.: A. corneal biopsy, left eye in 2.5% Glutaraldehyde for EM studies, B. corneal biopsy, left eye in 10% neutral buffered formalin).
 - b)** If possible, the specimen in 2.5% Glutaraldehyde should be refrigerated until the specimen is shipped to the F.C. Blodi Eye Pathology Laboratory. The 10% neutral buffered formalin specimen can stay at room temperature or can be refrigerated.
 - c)** Both specimens and requisition should be shipped via overnight mail to the F.C. Blodi Eye Pathology Laboratory, **unless** the specimen is removed on Friday.
 - i)** If the specimen is removed on Friday, refrigerate the specimen until Monday.
 - ii)** On Monday morning ship the both the Glutaraldehyde, 10% neutral buffered formalin specimens and Consultation Requisition form via overnight mail to the laboratory.
 - d)** Send specimens to the address mentioned under General Information on Collection and Handling of Specimens.