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BAYLOR COLLEGE
OF MEDICINE

Dept. of Neurology
Neuromuscular
Pathology Laboratory

PROCEDURE FOR OUTSIDE BIOPSIES **(Outside City Limits)**

FOR MUSCLE BIOPSIES

Three muscle samples measuring 1.5 cm x 1.0 x cm 1.0 cm are submitted for histochemical analysis. Carefully blot any excess blood or fluids from the sample. Taking care not to distort the muscle, wrap each specimen with tin foil (one layer). Immerse the specimen directly in liquid nitrogen until bubbling action ceases (approx. 60 seconds). Once frozen, place specimens in a small plastic bag pre-labeled with the patient's name and date of birth and immediately transfer the specimen to a polystyrene container filled with dry ice. Tape polystyrene container shut to slow sublimation of dry ice. Ship to Neuromuscular Pathology Laboratory via Federal Express. If the muscle cannot be shipped immediately, place the frozen specimen in a -70° C freezer. Please fill out provided Patient Information Form and attach billing information.

Please notify the lab 24 hours prior to sending biopsies. Laboratory hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. Biopsies on Fridays must be approved by lab in advance before the specimen is sent.

FOR NERVE BIOPSIES

The sample should measure approximately 5cm. It should be frozen and transported in the same manner as described above. A portion of the specimen measuring 0.5 cm to 0.2 cm should be placed in 3% Glutaraldehyde* in a plastic container. Wrap lid with parafilm and place specimen in a plastic bag.

DO NOT PLACE GLUTARALDEHYDE SPECIMEN ON DRY ICE.

It may be taped to the outside of the styrofoam container, but must be within the shipping box. Both specimens should be transported to Baylor Neuromuscular Pathology Laboratory in the Department of Neurology. Please fill out the provided Patient Information Form and attach information.

Baylor College of Medicine

Attn: Kevin Blankenship
Department of Neurology – Smith Tower
6550 Fannin Suite 1801 Room 130
Houston TX 77030

Note: If biopsies are not received in the proper condition, the laboratory reserves the right to reject and return specimen(s) to institution of origin.

*3% Glutaraldehyde can be obtained from Poly Scientific, 70 Cleveland Ave, Bayshore, NY 11706, Catalogue # S1809. 1-800-645-5825