Histology/Pathology Guidelines

General Information

- Specimen delivery: Histology – Room 2205.12
- Refer to Operating Room Specimen Management for guidance on tissue examination requirements

Labeling Expectation

- Container labels must include:
  - A minimum of two patient identifiers
    Options: Name (first & last) / DOB / MRN
  - Identify the tissue site/location (laterality)
- Resolution of labeling issues is required BEFORE we will process the specimen
- Corrections of patient identification require the collecting individual, or designee, to come to Histology to complete proper labeling

Collection Guidelines

Refer to the appropriate Test Catalog listing

Orders

Pathology Tissue Request
Pathology NON-GYN (Non FNA)
Pathology Cytology-GYN
Dermatopathology Request
GI Pathology Tissue Request
Pathology Autopsy Exam

Orders

- Correct orders must be placed in Epic prior to submitting tissues
- Incomplete orders will require resolution prior to processing and/or reporting

Key terminology

Fresh: Tissue is sent without fixative

- Must be delivered immediately
- Collection done at any location other than Adele Hall – refrigerate and transport immediately

Saline: Used with some fresh tissues to ensure they do not dry out before being processed in Histology

Tissue for Intra-operative Consultation: Tissue is sent without fixative

- Tissue must be delivered immediately
- When delivered, handoff requires clinical staff to verbally communicate “Tissue for Frozen”; Histology and clinical staff will then verify the patient identification and specimen source

Fixative: Tissue is placed in the appropriate fixative immediately upon collection

- Used to minimize cellular distortion and degeneration
- Stable at ambient temperature
- 10% buffered Formalin: most commonly used fixative
- Recommend tissue to fluid volume ratio is 1:15 – 1:20

Shared: The tissue has orders for additional testing; examples include microbiology culture, flow cytometry, cytogenetics studies, or DNA analysis

- Preferred for Histology to be in separate containers
- If Histology needs to divide the specimens an alert sticker should be affixed to the container.