



Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE ANALYSIS SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Skin biopsies are the primary tissue specimens which are commonly submitted to the lab for immunofluorescence (IF) analysis. Other tissues such as oral cavity specimens or conjunctiva may be submitted as well.

- IF analysis is performed on frozen tissue samples only. Fixation of any kind produces severe artifacts which precludes analysis. ***The specimen will be flash frozen upon receipt in the lab.***
- Place the **fresh** specimen in a preserving transport media such as Michel's immediately upon removal from the patient. ***Drying artifact must be reduced to an absolute minimum.*** Vials of Michel's are provided by DPMG.
- **Always** label the specimen container with patient's name (first and last), the specimen type, the date of collection and a second identifier unique to the patient such as DOB. ***Remember, we receive specimens from many offices and last name alone will not suffice to properly identify a specimen. All primary specimen containers must be labeled with 2 identifiers.***
- Fill out the DPMG requisition with the identical information. It is important that the specimen container and the requisition match exactly in this information. Discrepancies necessitate phone calls to your office. ***This could delay the processing of the biopsy.***
- Include also the following information on the requisition:
 - patient's date of birth
 - patient's gender
 - patient's unique identification number (SS or medical record number)
 - physician's address
 - phone number and FAX number
 - cc doctor(s)
 - clinical history
 - special instructions, as applicable
 - insurance information

Without the necessary information, we are unable to process the biopsy in an expeditious manner. We may call you for verification, and in some instances, we may return the specimen to you for proper labeling. This is necessary to assure that the service we provide for your patients is of the most accurate and excellent quality we can provide.

- Place the specimen and requisition in the plastic DPMG bag provided. There are separate pockets for the paperwork and the specimen.
- If sending a second portion of the specimen from the same patient for routine processing, place that portion in fixative (10% neutral buffered formalin) and follow instructions as detailed in the **Biopsies to be Submitted in Fixative: General Instructions**.
- Place the specimen containers in two separate bags. Staple the bags together.