



Diagnostic
Pathology
Medical
Group, Inc.

NERVE BIOPSY SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Nerve biopsies performed for the diagnosis of neurological diseases can not be handled in a routine manner. These specimens must be submitted in their fresh state and will be properly apportioned at the DPMG lab for light microscopy and possible EM studies.

- **Fresh** tissue is required and must be received in our lab as soon as possible after the procedure.
- Call the DPMG Customer Service Department at 916-446-0424 at least 24 hours prior to the procedure so we can arrange for immediate transport of the specimen.
- Physician: a piece of nerve at least 3-4 cm long is required.
- Wrap the fresh tissue in a saline-moistened gauze sponge. The tissue should not be allowed to dry out, but **do not** soak or float the tissue in saline.
- Seal the specimen in a fluid tight plastic bag.
- Place the bag in a dry plastic container.
- Surround the container with ice chips. **Do not** let the biopsy come into contact with the ice and **never** use dry ice. It is important, especially in the summer months, that the tissue be kept cool. The coolness will slow the deterioration process of the fresh tissue and is extremely important for the preservation of cellular ultrastructures for possible EM studies.
- Review and follow the instructions for labeling the containers and completing the requisition as detailed in **Biopsies to be Submitted in Fixative: General Instructions**.
- **Always** include a History and Physical with the biopsy. An accurate and complete diagnosis can not be made without this report. We will call your office for this document if not received.
- Make sure that the paperwork is kept separate from the specimen, ice and saline.