



# Fresh Tissue Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Specimen Triage

**NOTE: DO NOT SHIP ON SATURDAY OR HOLIDAYS**

This option is best for biopsies from elderly patients and/or those suspected to have an inflammatory myopathy.

**If the biopsy is from a pediatric patient or an adult patient suspected to have a metabolic myopathy, please contact us so we can discuss the triage of the sample.**

**Ideal muscle biopsy from surgeon is sharply dissected approximately 1.5 cm length and 1.0 width, with muscle fibers oriented longitudinally. Avoid injecting biopsy tissue with anesthetic. Avoid site of prior needle EMG trauma. Avoid stretching and cautery as much as possible.**

## 1. No separation of specimen

Wrap the specimen in gauze or telfa that has been barely dampened with saline solution and place in a tightly closed water-tight container. We will separate the material upon arrival

## 2. If you are comfortable separating the specimen – Preferred Method

Separate fresh tissue specimen into 3 parts:

Part 1 – Wrap an intact portion of the specimen (a nice belly of muscle) in gauze or telfa that has been barely dampened with saline solution and place this in a tightly closed water-tight container with cool packs. We will snap freeze the sample upon arrival.

**NOTE: Please be sure that the tissue IS NOT floating in saline or that the gauze is dripping as this will produce a suboptimal specimen that may interfere with analysis and diagnosis.**

Part 2 – Place portion of specimen in tightly closed vial containing formalin fixative.

Part 3 – Place portion of specimen in tightly closed vial containing glutaraldehyde fixative. If glutaraldehyde fixative is not available, we will utilize a portion of formalin-fixed tissue for EM.

**Shipping:** Place specimen in shipping container with enough cool packs to last for the anticipated one day transport time.

**We accept specimens Monday through Saturday. Contact client relations to let us know that you are sending a sample for evaluation at (501) 604-2695.**

**NOTE: If transporting a specimen for Saturday delivery please be sure to let us know by Friday at 5:00 PM CST and check the shipping label with the following:**

**-Saturday delivery**

**-Priority overnight**

**Please note that it is essential that the tissue be collected and immediately triaged to avoid any deterioration of the tissue. A timely and well-performed triage allows for the most accurate pathologic evaluation of these specimens.**