



Dry Ice Muscle Biopsy Triage

NOTE: DO NOT SHIP ON SATURDAYS OR HOLIDAYS

This option is best for biopsies from pediatric patients and/or adult patients suspected of having a metabolic myopathy or muscular dystrophy.

The ideal muscle biopsy from surgeon measures ~2.0 x 1.0 x 1.0 cm (+/- 0.5 for each dimension) before triage and is sharply dissected with muscle fibers oriented longitudinally. Avoid injecting biopsy tissue with anesthetic. Avoid site of prior needle EMG trauma (mimics inflammatory myopathy). Avoid stretching and cautery as much as possible. Muscle clamps not needed.

Separate fresh tissue specimen into 3 parts (in order of importance):

Part 1: 1/2 biopsy tissue

Fresh Frozen Tissue: Loosely wrap an intact portion of the specimen (a nice cylinder or belly of muscle) in a small square of tinfoil that has been labeled with the patient's name and surgical pathology number. Freeze this tinfoil-wrapped piece of tissue by placing it onto the dry-ice in a Styrofoam cooler. Close the lid for one minute. Open the container and place the tinfoil-wrapped specimen into a pre-cooled plastic specimen jar labeled with the patient's name, surgical pathology number and biopsy site. Transport the now frozen specimen in the Styrofoam cooler with enough dry ice to last the expected transport time. Do not place formalin-filled or glutaraldehyde-filled containers within the dry-ice cooler as they will freeze.

Part 2: 1/4 biopsy tissue

Place portion of specimen in tightly closed vial containing formalin fixative. Ideally 1 cm or less in diameter.

Part 3: 1/4 biopsy tissue

Place portion of specimen in tightly closed vial containing refrigerated glutaraldehyde fixative. Small lengths of sharply dissected muscle measuring 2 -3 mm in diameter work best. (If glutaraldehyde fixative is not available, we will utilize a portion of formalin-fixed tissue for EM.)

Shipping

We accept specimens Monday through Saturday.

A Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Requisition form with pertinent clinical history must accompany all specimens.

If transporting a specimen for Saturday delivery please call Client Relations at (501) 604-2695 by Friday at 5:00PM CST and check the shipping label with the following:

- Saturday delivery**
- First 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.