Submission of Specimens for Immunofluorescence - External Clients

Principle

This procedure is for the use of external clients when submitting a tissue specimen to Sunnybrook for Direct Immunofluorescence (IF) testing.

A completed requisition must accompany the labeled specimen container. The patients' BRADMA label or a complete, handwritten label must be affixed to all specimen containers before transporting. Clinical data must accompany the specimen. Refer to SCI-5.7.20.8 Specimen Identification and Requisitions

Specimen: Fresh skin, renal and buccal mucosa biopsy. Note: For Renal specimens also refer to SCI-5.7.20.10.3 Submission of Renal Biopsy

Preparing a specimen for submission

Materials

Immunofluorescence Wash Buffer

Stock Solutions

- 1M Potassium Citrate: 32.44g Potassium citrate in 100ml d.H₂O
- 0.1M Magnesium sulfate: 4.93g MgSO₄ in 200ml d.H₂O
- 0.1M N-ethylmaleimide: 2.5g N-ethylmaleimide in 200ml d.H₂O

Working Solution

25ml 1M Potassium citrate
50ml 0.1M Magnesium sulfate
50ml 0.1M N-ethylmaleimide
875ml d.H₂O

Add the three solutions to water. Adjust pH to 7.0 using 1N NaCl or 1N HCl. Store in 1L clean plastic bottles at 4°C.

Michel's Transport Media

- 55g Ammonium sulphate
- 100ml IF wash buffer

Add ammonium sulphate into wash buffer. Mix. Store in dark plastic bottle at 4°C. Discard when solution is cloudy and/or has crystals.
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**Procedure**

Prepare the procured specimen for submission for Immunofluorescence testing.

1. Tissue pieces submitted should be representative of each tissue type area. More than one piece may be submitted for each application. For skin and buccal mucosa specimens, please insure that epidermis is intact. For renal biopsies please refer to [SCI-5.7.20.10.3 Submission of Renal Biopsies](#).

2. Using clean forceps or applicator sticks submerge the specimen in Michel's Transport Medium in a leak proof bottle. Do not allow the specimen to come in contact with any fixatives. Do not use Michel's Transport Medium if the solution is cloudy and/or has crystals.

   NOTE: Sunnybrook does not supply Michel's Transport medium.

3. Label the specimen bottle with the patient demographics and the type of fluid in the bottle.

4. Transport to Sunnybrook. Refer to the submission procedure below.

**Limitations**

- If specimens are not placed immediately into Michel's transport media upon procurement, artefactual effects may affect pathological diagnosis.

- Do not use Michel’s Transport Medium if the solution is cloudy and/or has crystals.

**Submission**

Please notify the Immunopathology laboratory at 416-480-6100 x7089 as soon as the biopsy has been procured, prepared for submission and is ready for transport.

The operational hours of the Immunopathology laboratory are:

- Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays) 0600 to 1730
- Weekends Closed
- Statutory Holidays Closed

**Specimens must be received between 0800-1400 hours.** If you obtain specimens after this time, place the specimen in Michel’s transport medium and hold in the fridge at 4°C until the next business day.

*Uncontrolled when printed from Intranet or Internet*
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TRANSPORT THE SPECIMENS

Send by courier, for receipt in the laboratory by 1400 hours to:

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Immunopathology Laboratory, Room E446
2075 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4N 3M5
ATTENTION: IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE SPECIMEN

NOTE: Transportation and expenses thereof shall be the obligation of the referring pathologist.