

INSTRUCTIONS FOR KIDNEY BIOPSY SPECIMENS

1. We strongly recommend obtaining two (2) needle core specimens; one for immunofluorescence (in Michel's preservative); one for light microscopy sections and for EM (in 2% cacodylate-buffered glutaraldehyde). If possible, third specimen in buffered formalin is helpful. Please use only our solutions. In the event that glutaraldehyde is not available, use buffered formalin. Never use any fixative which is turbid, cloudy or discolored.

Never, never freeze any tissue. Once in fixative, samples do not need to be refrigerated.

2. If only one core is obtained, proceed as follows:
 1. If immunofluorescence will most likely be helpful (to R/O IgA or anti-GBM disease) then cut a small cube from each end of the core and put both of the small pieces in glutaraldehyde, placing the remainder of the core in Michel's fixative.
 2. In most cases, light and electron microscopy are the most helpful components of the biopsy evaluation, so if tissue is limited, it's usually best to submit it entirely in glutaraldehyde.
3. We strongly discourage the use of an 18 gauge biopsy needle. The incidence of inadequate or marginal samples has increased significantly with the use of such needles. Instead, we recommend the use of the 16 gauge biopsy needle.
4. We request that specimens be shipped with an overnight express service (i.e. Federal Express) to insure prompt receipt of the specimen. Place the respective bottles containing tissue specimens on individual gauze 4x4's, wrapping each bottle individually and securing the gauze with tape. Place the bottles in a bubble pack mailer along with the completed patient history form. Place the bubble pack mailer in the express envelope and send to:

Orlando Regional Medical Center
Department of Pathology
ATTENTION: Electron Microscopy - George Price
45 West Sturtevant St.
Orlando, FL 32806
Phone: 407-841-5217