

Neuromuscular/EM Specimen Collection Guide

Please call the neuromuscular laboratory at **612-873-2175** to notify the lab staff of all incoming biopsies and to request fixatives. It is most helpful to notify the lab both when a biopsy is initially scheduled and again when a biopsy is about to be delivered.

Phone #: 612-873-2175

Fax #: 612-904-4240

Email: EMLab@hcmcd.org

Laboratory Receiving Hours:

7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.,

Monday-Friday

What to Send with the Biopsy:

- Neuromuscular Pathology Request Form with clinician's signature
- Patient demographics and insurance face sheet
- Most recent clinic/hospital visit notes and any relevant test results

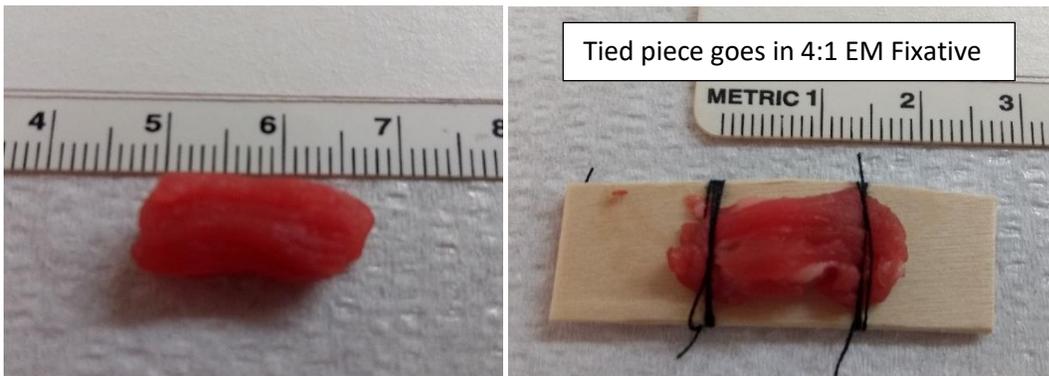
Muscle Biopsies

Please send 3 pieces total- 2 pieces sent fresh, and 1 piece in 4:1 EM Fixative.

Biopsy size- Muscle pieces should measure 8-10 mm in diameter (about the diameter of a pencil eraser) by at least 10 mm in length. For young children, we would prefer 2 good sized pieces to 3 very small pieces. **Please do not cauterize tissue!**

Fresh pieces (x2)- should be placed (but not tied) on a piece of tongue blade and wrapped in gauze that has been slightly moistened with saline and then packed in a labelled specimen container over wet ice or a cold pack.

Fixed Piece- send the fixed piece held at resting length by sutures on a piece of tongue blade immersed in 4:1 EM Fixative (supplied by our lab) that has been labelled.



Nerve Biopsies

1. Send one piece of nerve measuring at least 10 mm (1 cm) in length wrapped in gauze that has been slightly moistened in saline.
2. Send a second piece of nerve approximately 20 mm (2 cm) in length in 3% glutaraldehyde fixative. Please label the proximal end of the nerve with a suture.

Shipping

Specimens must be received in the lab as soon as possible. Specimens collected within the Twin Cities metro area can be sent by our complimentary courier, TForce. To request a pick-up for fresh biopsies, you can contact our lab directly at 612-873-2175. Please enclose all necessary paperwork with the specimen and address the package to the following address:

HCMC- Electron Microscopy Lab

825 South 8th Street, Suite LL-05

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Note- If you are sending unfixed tissue from outside of the Twin Cities metro area, please contact us for more detailed specimen preparation and shipping instructions.