



Indiana University Health

**Indiana University Health Pathology Laboratory  
Neuropathology Lab Rm. 4001  
350 West 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202**

**Phone: 317-491-6329**

**Fax: 317-491-6419**

## Peripheral Nerve Biopsy Collection and Transportation

Laboratory hours are Monday – Friday 7:30am- 3:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Holidays.

Specimens are not accepted after-hours or on weekends.

**All specimens must arrive in our lab no later than 2:00 p.m.**

### 1) **CONTACT:**

Contacting Neuropathology prior to sending specimens is recommended. This ensures that staff is available to receive the specimen. Please call 317-491-6329 at least 24 hours in advance to provide us with patient information. Contact us immediately when a biopsy has been canceled. Also call 491-6329 with technical questions about specimen collection. To schedule a courier or for case inquiries, results, and reports, please contact Client Services 317-491-6000 or 800-433-0740.

### 2) **COLLECT** using either method listed below:

#### Method #1: **10% Formalin Fixed**

**Sural nerve samples must be at least 30-40mm in length.** Handle specimen gently and place in 10% neutral buffered formalin immediately. **DO NOT CUT NERVE INTO FRAGMENTS.** One long piece of nerve is required. Submitting small fragments and poor samples will hinder proper processing/ testing and a new sample may be requested. Clamps, pins, sutures, stitches and tongue depressors should NOT be used ...these items damage delicate tissue.

#### Method #2: **Preserved in Glutaraldehyde (recommended for overnight shipments)**

Items needed: 3% glutaraldehyde, screw-top test tube, and index card.

**Sural nerve samples must be at least 30-40mm in length.** Handle specimen gently. **DO NOT CUT NERVE INTO FRAGMENTS.** Place fresh sural nerve on index card (cut to be slightly bigger than nerve but still able to fit in test tube) and let it adhere for 30 seconds. Fill test tube with 3% glutaraldehyde. Place the nerve with index card into the test tube and close tightly. The nerve should be completely submerged in glutaraldehyde. On test tube, write patient's name and time that the tissue was placed in glutaraldehyde.

### 3) **TRANSPORT:**

Once samples are collected and placed in fixative, they can be sent via courier. Label the exterior of the package with the address listed above. Adhering to the above directions will prevent delay in the processing of your specimens. Thank you for your attention to these very important details!

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