

Protocol For Banking Autopsy Brains From Outside Institutions

Remove brain and weigh

Make midline sagittal section through the inter-hemispheric fissure

Place right side of brain in a plastic bag, seal and placed in a second plastic bag and seal, then freeze in the coldest possible freezer (-80 preferred).

After the half brain is frozen solid (at least 24 hours) place the double bag ensemble in a sturdy Styrofoam box with up to 10 pounds of dry ice. Newspaper can be packed around the brain to keep it from moving. Place Styrofoam box place in a sturdy cardboard box with name and phone number of individual responsible for banking and securely tape.

This package should be shipped by overnight express to:

Dr. Ronald L. Hamilton
Presbyterian University Hospital
Division of Neuropathology
Scaife Hall S-701
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone (412) 624-9415
Fax (412) 624-5610

Fix left side of the brain in 10% formalin (preferably buffered) at the time of autopsy.

After 7-10 days fixation, rinse the left half in water for 2 hours, cover with numerous moist paper towels and placed plastic bag and sealed shut.

Place first sealed bag with brain within another larger plastic bag (a trash or hazardous waste bag will work fine) to prevent leakage should the bag tear.

Place the double bag ensemble in a sturdy cardboard box surrounded by Styrofoam chips to prevent movement, include name and phone number of individual responsible for banking then securely tape the box.

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