

April 2010

CHILDREN'S MUSCLE BIOPSIES

Phone #'s for assistance: 692-6856 (Lori), 692-5646 (Histology)

If suspected diagnosis is not given, refrigerate specimen and contact clinicians to obtain it. If it cannot be obtained within several hours (weekend or holiday) then freeze the specimen (preferably -70°C). This will probably not happen but for rare occasions when it does be sure to completely thaw the specimen before processing to avoid ice crystals.

Suspected Diagnosis	Formalin Fixation	Fresh Frozen Sections	Bulk Frozen	Electron Microscopy	Fibroblast Culture or Formalin for H&E
R/O Dermatomyositis	60%	25% (need good cross section)	10%	5%	Skin → Culture (small amount) → H&E (large amount)
R/O Mitochondrial Diseases (or any metabolic disease)	10% scrap ends from clamps)	20% (good quality tissue)	60% (studies probably will use > 0.5 gm)**	5%	5% (if available → Culture (large amount) → H&E (small amount)
R/O Duchenne's or other dystrophies	10%	40-45% (for immunoperoxidase stains)	40-45% (for Western blots)	5%	None

**** for bulk frozen mitochondrial diseases - please weigh each vial that is frozen using the sensitive balance in the histology lab. Write the weight in gm on the tube and dictate it as part of the gross description.**