Eyeball (Enucleation) Cases from UPMC Community Hospitals

Eyeballs removed by surgical enucleation from one of the UPMC Community Hospitals (e.g. Mercy, Passavant) will be accessioned into Co-Path with a tracking number (see below), and sent to the Ophthalmic Pathology Service at UPMC Presbyterian for gross and microscopic examination. This policy does not pertain to other types of Ophthalmic specimens, nor to orbital exenterations (see Note).

Specimen handling

1) The originating Pathology Department receives the specimen from the Operating Room. The specimen should be placed immediately into formalin, unless “pemphigus” or “pemphigoid” appears in the clinical differential. In that case, Dermatopathology (412-864-3860) should be contacted for instructions on handling and the specimen sent there.

2) The time and date in formalin should be noted on the paperwork, as eyeballs require prolonged fixation prior to further handling.

3) The specimen will be accessioned with a non-billing number for tracking purposes. (e.g. PVR number for Passavant. This should be set up by request to Co-Path).

4) The formalin-fixed specimen will be sent by Stat Courier to Neuropathology for accessioning as a PHS case.

UPMC Presbyterian Hospital
Division of Neuropathology
Room 8719 South Tower
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Tel: 412-647-9417
Fax: 412-647-5602
Email: Christina Romanello (romanellocm@upmc.edu) OR Karen Weber (weberkm@upmc.edu)

5) Please notify Mrs. Romanello or Mrs. Weber that the case is being sent.

Note: All other Ophthalmic Pathology specimen types, including orbital exenterations for skin or soft tissue tumors, are handled by the originating Pathology department.

If subspecialty consultation is desired, please refer to: http://neuro.pathology.pitt.edu/webstuff/Eye%20Consults.html or call 412-647-9417.

For questions about requests for special handling or tests raised by the clinician, please call Dr. Chu. Note that banking of fresh intraocular tumors is NOT performed as preserving the diagnostic integrity of the specimen has priority over research.
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