Protocol for Sending Nerve and Muscle Biopsies

Nerve Biopsy: 3cm sural nerve is sufficient. Take care not to crush or stretch any part of the nerve with forceps.

Muscle Biopsy: It is important that no local anaesthetic comes into contact with the muscle sampled. The specimen needs to be a minimum of 1 cm³. Fascia may be included if there is a need for examination.

Handling and Transport: The specimen should be wrapped in gauze slightly moistened with Normal Saline, and placed in a water-tight specimen jar labelled with patient’s name & DOB, biopsy site(s), and the time and date of specimen collection. Do not immerse specimen in saline or fixative. The specimen jar should be transported with wet ice (do not freeze the specimen) in an esky to the address below.

Information required:
1. 24-hour advance notice of biopsy time and date. Specimen should arrive at the lab by 3:30 pm Mon-Fri on the same day of biopsy. If the biopsy procedure has been cancelled, please notify the laboratory.
2. Fill out the NEUROMUSCULAR PATHOLOGY REQUEST form, in particular the followings:
   • Precise identification of specimen eg. site(s) of muscle or nerve, right or left.
   • All patient details including Billing Classification. For a public outpatient, please fill out the MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT section with patient’s signature.
   • Referring doctors (to whom report may be sent) and their provider number, phone & fax numbers.
   • Relevant clinical information and test results including NCS and EMG.
   • Email or fax the form to the laboratory.

Address for sending specimen:

Dr. Min-Xia Wang
Neurology Laboratory
Rm702, Brain & Mind Centre, 94 Mallett Street
Camperdown NSW 2050

Delivery Dock at back of the building on Church Street (circled on location map)

Ph: 02 9114 4280 or 02 9114 4281
Fax: 02 9114 4291
Email: Neurology.lab@sydney.edu.au