



THE HOSPITAL FOR
SICK CHILDREN

Paediatric
Laboratory Medicine

Cytogenetics Laboratory Clinical Fibroblast Service

Instructions for Submission of Tissue / Biopsies for the Establishment of Fibroblast Cell Lines

- The biopsy must be performed under sterile conditions.
- The specimen should be submitted as soon as possible following collection to ensure specimen viability for successful establishment of a cell line.
- The size of the tissue specimen should be minimum 2-3 cubic mm.
- Transfer each tissue biopsy specimen immediately into individual sterile 15 mL screw cap tubes or sterile containers containing sterile medium (Culture Media + 15% FBS + 1% Pen/Strep). If tissue culture media cannot be obtained, sterile saline may be used instead.
- Top up the medium to fill the tube.
- Screw cap on tight and use parafilm to seal tube.
- Label each tube clearly with patient name and date of birth (two identifiers are essential).
- If sending more than one biopsy, **process each sample separately**.
- Each sample must be accompanied by a completed SickKids Clinical Fibroblast Service Requisition form, **signed by the Clinician requesting the banking**.
- If the specimen has to be stored overnight prior to sending to this laboratory, it should be kept at 4°C in a sterile area. If there is no access to a fridge, it can be left at room temperature.

Mailing Instructions

- Wrap tubes in absorbent material and placed in a biohazard bag and sealed closed.
- Place in a small box containing absorbent material and tape closed.
- **Cells should be maintained at room temperature at all times.**
- Transport via Overnight Priority Courier.

Contact Us

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