

# NERVE BIOPSY TISSUE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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This FAQ will provide you with information on how to stabilize nerve biopsy tissue specimens to ensure that it arrives at our laboratory without degradation of the specimen. For comprehensive instructions outlining the appropriate steps to submit nerve biopsy tissue to Michigan Medicine Laboratories (MLabs) refer to the Nerve Biopsy Tissue Submission Protocol. If you need further assistance, please contact our MLabs Client Services Center 800.862.7284.

**Question:** I am not a client; can I send my own kit?

**Answer:** No. Please contact MLabs Client Services to receive onboarding, training, and our MLabs collection kit prior to collecting and sending a specimen. This process ensures the biopsy tissue you send us meets our specimen requirements and remains stable in shipment to our facility.

**Question:** When can I send a tissue biopsy specimen to Michigan Medicine Laboratories (MLabs)?

**Answer:** Specimens should be shipped or transported to arrive Monday – Friday by 5:00 PM, excluding holidays. Specimens cannot be accepted during observed Michigan Medicine holidays. Please contact MLabs Client Services for observed holiday dates and hours. Specimens that cannot be shipped for arrival within these timeframes should be stored according to the submission protocol until ready to ship.

**Question:** Do I need to notify MLabs Client Services prior to sending a tissue biopsy specimen?

**Answer:** Yes, our MLabs Client Services team assists in obtaining the appropriate documentation and specimen tracking to our facility.

**Question:** Does glutaraldehyde fixative need to be stored and shipped refrigerated?

**Answer:** Glutaraldehyde fixative must be refrigerated until ready to ship and during storage and transport of the specimen. Samples should be shipped or transported to arrive within 24 hours. The entire kit can be refrigerated.

**Question:** The surgical pathology specimen placed into the glutaraldehyde fixative was stored at room temperature over the weekend. Can I still send the specimen to your laboratory?

**Answer:** No. The specimen containing glutaraldehyde fixative must be refrigerated during storage and transport of the specimens.

**Question:** When can I expect a final surgical pathology report?

**Answer:** Depending on the complexity of the case, a final report is routinely available 48 hours - 3 weeks after receiving the sample. The requesting clinician can speak directly with the neuropathologist at any time by calling our client services office at 800.862.7284.

**Question:** I do not have glutaraldehyde or another EM fixative available. How can I preserve the specimen?

**Answer:** Call MLabs client services 800.862.7284 to provide you with a kit which includes glutaraldehyde.

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**Question:** How long are surgical pathology specimens stable when stored in the appropriate fixatives and conditions?

**Answer:** All tissue biopsy specimens in glutaraldehyde will remain stable for 3 days when stored at 4 °C. Formalin fixed specimens will remain stable at room temperature. However, to avoid over fixation of the specimen it is best to send the specimens to our facility as soon as possible for processing.

**Question:** How long are nerve biopsy specimens stored at Michigan Medicine Laboratories?

**Answer:** We follow CAP national guidelines. After all studies are performed and a final report has been issued, the remaining paraffin embedded blocks will be stored at room temperature for at least 10 years. Glutaraldehyde embedded tissue will be stored indefinitely.