

Date: January 15, 2016
To: EZ Surgeons, EZ Oncologists, EZ Radiologists, EZ OR Nursing Staff
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Clarification of the Edmonton Zone Anatomical Pathology Lymphoma Protocol

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Applicable at: RAH, MIS, UAH, CCI, GNH sites

Key Messages:

- Clarification to the lab bulletin that was distributed on December 4, 2015.
- For samples <1 cm or needle core biopsies:
 - The **two cores** sampled should be placed in **formalin**.
 - **If possible** perform a FNA. From this sample 2 slides are made and the rest of the sample is placed into TTM for flow cytometry.
 - **Do not place any tissue cores into TTM.**
- See below for more information- this information was included in the December 4, 2015 lab bulletin.

Guidelines for Samples with Clinical Suspicion of Lymphoma

- A larger biopsy allows for thorough ancillary testing and reliable interpretation. Whenever possible, submit a sample size of ≥ 1 cm.
- Cases with high degree of suspicion of lymphoma should be sampled and submitted to the lab in the morning and if possible avoid sampling after hours to optimize patient care.

During Regular Working Hours:

If submitting tissue to the Pathology departments between their **morning start times** and **4:00 pm Monday to Friday**.

| Sample Size | Sample Guidelines |
|--|---|
| Sample ≥ 1 cm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the sample as fresh to the pathology department. • Do not split the tissue. |
| Sample <1 cm or a needle core biopsy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a minimum of 2 cores and place in formalin • If possible collect a FNA biopsy which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -at least 2 slides; one air dried and one fixed in alcohol -a sample for flow cytometry submitted in Tissue Transport Media (TTM- contact the lab). |
| Sample is a large case (example: bowel/colon resections) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit sample as per routine protocols |

After Cut-Off Times and Weekends:

After hours and on weekends the clinician is responsible for ensuring that the entire specimen is placed into an appropriately labelled container with formalin and is submitted to the anatomical pathology department.

Why this is important:

- The Edmonton Zone lymphoma special interest group has provided input to help incorporate best practices into the lymphoma protocol. These changes to the lymphoma protocol help to:
 - Decrease turn around times for specimens requiring the lymphoma protocol to provide optimal patient care.
 - Standardize lymphoma protocol practices across the Edmonton Zone
 - Decrease the duplication of processes

Action Required:

- All clinicians should be aware of the anatomical pathology laboratory hours at their sites and the sample guidelines listed above.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Raymond Lai- Lead, Lymphoma Diagnostic Team, Cross Cancer Institute
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- Dr. Jack Slatnik- Zone Section Chief Anatomical Pathology
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- Jenny Zadunayski- EZ Anatomical Pathology Quality Assurance Tech II
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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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