Instructions for Specimen Submission for Electron Microscopy Examination

Tissue for conventional transmission electron microscopic examination, energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy, and most scanning electron microscopic applications is best submitted in glutaraldehyde fixative. Please contact us for additional technical information and/or advice with respect to specimen handling, or for pricing information. Glutaraldehyde fixative and express shipping is provided upon request.

Specimens can be received 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays.

With all specimen submissions please included a completed Electron Microscopy Request form and place vial in a crush protected biohazard specimen bag.

Specimens should be shipped to:
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Electron Microscopy Laboratory
Children’s Hospital Colorado
13123 East 16th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80045

Whole Tissue: Submit tissue in glutaraldehyde fixative. If glutaraldehyde fixative is unavailable, formaldehyde fixed wet tissue will generally suffice; and, depending upon circumstances, also paraffin embedded tissue or frozen tissue that has been allowed to thaw in chilled fixative. No refrigeration is required during shipping.

Cilia Brush or Rhinoprobe: Submit entire brush or probe into glutaraldehyde preferably with a volume no larger than 4ml. No refrigeration is required during shipping.

Peripheral Blood: Collect specimen in a purple or blue (ACD) tube with a minimum volume of 3ml. Send specimen at ambient temperature via overnight express carrier. Do not freeze or refrigerate sample. When possible, please include patient history.

Hair: Submit in a labeled container without fixative. No refrigeration is required during shipping.

Paraffin Block: Please submit entire paraffin block, if possible with the last cut H&E slide for reference (dotting the area of primary interest). The block and slide will be returned.