



Specimen

The specimen should be representative. We suggest reducing sampling error by obtaining tissue fragments from several sites of the lesion.

1. Always use a sharp razor blade or scalpel to avoid crushing tissue.
2. Cut tissue into tissue blocks 1–2 millimeters in largest dimension.
3. Place the specimen in fixative as soon as it is taken.

Fixation

Optimal preservation requires immediate and rapid fixation.

1. Buffered glutaraldehyde (2.5%–3%) or Gluta (Trump's) fixative (T130) is optimal.
2. Formalin-fixed tissue is not accepted.

Required Information and Shipping

1. If not ordering electronically, submit a General Request Form (T239) with the specimen and indicate test EMTO / Electron Microscopy, Technical Only under Other Tests.
2. Indicate the patient's first and last name and include a second unique identifier on the specimen containers.
 - a. The name on the specimen containers must match the paperwork being sent with the specimens.
 - b. Second unique identifiers include: patient medical record/clinic number, specimen/accession or hospital/order number, and patient's birth date (*mm-dd-yyyy*).
 - c. When sending fixed wet tissue, the specimen source and fixative used must be clearly marked on each vial.
 - d. When sending resin blocks, each block must be individually labeled with unique patient identifiers (eg, etched onto the block or embedded into it). Unlabeled blocks that are in a container labeled with patient identifiers do not meet College of American Pathologists (CAP) requirements.
 - e. When sending thin sections/grids, only one patient/case may be submitted per grid container. The grid container must be clearly labeled with unique patient identifiers.
3. Complete all information on the Electron Microscopy Technical Only Patient Information sheet (T709).
 - a. Electric orders can use the MayoAccess label for the patient and client information section.
 - b. **A contact name, telephone number, and email address are required** for information and questions.
 - c. Test EM / Electron Microscopy will be ordered if a pathologist interpretation is requested.
4. Include appropriate slides, blocks and a preliminary pathology report.
5. Shipping specimens in styrofoam transportation coolers is advised to avoid extreme hot or cold temperatures and to ensure specimens are received ambient.
 - a. Do not place on ice, dry ice, or freeze.
 - b. Clients with Mayo Clinic Laboratories courier service: package in an ambient bag for courier pickup.

Shipping address: Mayo Clinic Laboratories
3050 Superior Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901