

Sending Large Samples to the Laboratory

Can the sample be cut in half or quarters and submitted in 2 or 4 regular sized histology pots?

The largest formalin filled biopsy pots supplied is 120ml. It is important that these are packaged within a sealed biohazard bag with absorbent pad/gauze to absorb any leaks. Ensure the outer packaging displays the UN3373 label.

Does the whole sample need to be submitted?

Please only use biopsy pots supplied. Glass jars, medicine pots, lunch boxes are not suitable and do not comply with regulations.

If the sample does need to be submitted whole, please follow the following steps:

- 1) Fix the sample in 10% neutral buffered formalin in a suitable container with lid for 24 – 72 hours at room temperature. The fixation time depends on the size and type of tissue. Consider if there is any unnecessary muscle or fascia that can be removed. Partial incisions can also be made into the centre of the tissue prior to fixation to allow the formalin to penetrate into the tissue quicker.
- 2) After a minimum of 24hrs in formalin, you will need the following consumables to hand to triple package the sample:

- Gauze
- Leak proof bag
- Plastic receptacle with secure lid
- Outer bag with UN3373 label



TissueStor tubs can be purchased from MiLab Supplies. They come in different sizes from 1 litre to 15 litres and come with a leak proof bag.



The following steps must be carried out in a well-ventilated room.

- 3) Place your leak proof bag inside your plastic tub.
- 4) Soak gauze in formalin and squeeze out the excess. Take the sample out of formalin and allow to drain. Wrap the formalin-soaked gauze around the sample and place inside the bag.

Please do not send the sample in the pot filled with formalin. This violates dangerous goods regulations and puts drivers and laboratory personnel at risk.

- 5) Ensure the bag is sealed securely.
- 6) Secure the lid on the tub
- 7) Place the tub inside the outer packaging (courier/postal bag etc.). If it does not fit, place inside a cardboard box with the courier/post bag attached to the outside. The outer packaging must have UN3373 labelling to comply with regulations.

Contact your waste provider to ensure the pot containing the waste formalin is disposed of in accordance with current waste regulations.

It is a legal requirement to ensure all diagnostic specimens are packaged correctly and in compliance with the current dangerous goods regulations. Following these steps will ensure there is no delay in transportation and processing of your sample.



**Please refer to Fact Sheet 9 on our website for further information or call to discuss.
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