The lab processes all nerve and muscle biopsies sent to Emory University.

The lab is located within The School of Medicine, Department of Neurology.

We are a full service laboratory providing tissue diagnostic services for patients with neuromuscular diseases.

Contact Marilyn Thomas for copies of reports or billing questions at (404) 778-3628.
LABORATORY PERSONNEL

Director: Jonathan D. Glass, MD
Professor of Neurology and Pathology
Board certified in Neurology and Pathology (Neuropathology)

Raphael James, HT(ASCP)
Marilyn Thomas
LABORATORY HOURS

• 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
• Technicians are able to accept biopsy specimens from 8:30 to 3:00.
• Schedule procedures early to assure they arrive in the lab by 3:00.
• Please avoid Fridays for nerve biopsies due to overnight fixation.
• Contact the lab with technical questions at: (404) 727-3340 or Pager (404) 686-5500 ID #20007.
PROTOCOL FOR NERVE AND MUSCLE BIOPSIES

The following instructions are provided to ensure proper collection of the biopsy tissue so that subsequent sectioning may be done successfully.
NERVE BIOPSIES

- A segment of nerve approximately 3-5 cm should be obtained.
- If the nerve is to be sent the same day by courier, wrap the nerve in a saline moistened gauze.
- If the nerve is to be sent overnight, carefully lay the nerve on a piece of index card and place in 3% buffered glutaraldehyde.
- Send to the lab on crushed ice.
MUSCLE BIOPSIES

- The muscle specimen should be at least 2cm x 1cm x 1cm.
- Wrap muscle tissue in a saline moistened gauze to prevent tissue from drying out (do not immerse in saline as this causes an artifact when freezing).
- Deliver to our lab same day or overnight on crushed ice.
- See procedure for freezing muscle if tissue cannot be delivered within 24 hours.
PROCEDURE FOR FREEZING MUSCLE (when tissue cannot arrive within 24 hours)

Supplies needed:
- Styrofoam container
- Small metal container for 2-Methylbutane (isopentane)
- OCT compound
- Container of formalin
- Aluminum foil
- Long forceps
- Cork
PREPARATION FOR FREEZING MUSCLE TISSUE

• Fill a container half full of isopentane (about 100ml).
• Surround the container with dry ice.
• Drop tiny pieces of dry ice into liquid and wait until it quits bubbling.
• Write patient name and ID# on a piece of cork and aluminum foil.
MUSCLE DISSECTION

- Cut muscle tissue and place one third into 10% buffered formalin.
- Place a tiny piece of tissue on an index card and submerge in 3% buffered glutaraldehyde.
- Freeze remaining two thirds piece of muscle tissue.
FREEZING MUSCLE

- Place OCT compound on a piece of cork labeled with patient ID#.
- Orient muscle tissue on cork for cross sectioning.
- Use long handled forceps to hold the cork and completely immerse the tissue into the pre-cooled isopentane.
- Hold the cork steady for 15 to 20 seconds (depending on size of tissue).
- Wrap tissue in pre-cooled foil and ship on dry ice.
PATIENT INFORMATION

• Completely fill out biopsy information sheet.
• Attach additional patient clinical history.
• Include EMG report when available.
• Place all in zip lock bag and send with specimen.
PACKAGING FOR FRESH OR FIXED TISSUE

- Place the labeled containers in zip lock bags to prevent water damage of label.
- Place patient biopsy information sheet in separate zip lock bag.
- Place crushed ice in zip lock bag to prevent leakage from styrofoam container.
- Place all in the styrofoam container.
BILLING

• We bill outside facilities directly.
• We cannot bill patients or their insurance companies.
• CPT codes and prices will be supplied upon request.
• Contact Marilyn Thomas for reports and billing questions at (404) 778-3628.
DIRECTIONS FOR COURIER

• Emory Neuromuscular Laboratory
  Emory University School of Medicine,
  Department of Neurology
  Woodruff Memorial Research Bldg., Room 6310
• We are located off Clifton Rd. (Circular drive in
  front of the building is Woodruff Circle).
• We are beside Emory University Hospital and
  across the street from the Emory Clinic.
• Laboratory phone #: (404)727-3340
  Pager: (404) 686-5500  ID#20007
SHIPPING ADDRESS

Emory Neuromuscular Laboratory
Emory University School of Medicine
Department of Neurology
101 Woodruff Circle, Room 6310
Atlanta, GA 30322