


Tissue Gross and Microscopic Exemption List

	Document Classification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Policy and Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Guideline
	Document Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical
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Purpose: In accordance with accrediting agency requirements, this policy defines how tissue specimens will be managed. This policy classifies:

- Tissue types that are exempt from submission to the Laboratory
- Specimens whose submission can be limited to gross examination
- Specimens requiring both gross and microscopic examination.

Target Users: Surgeons, Hospitalists, ED Providers, OBGYN Providers, and Clinical Staff involved in obtaining or processing tissue samples.

Definitions: None

Policy: It is the purpose of surgical pathology to inspect and analyze tissue samples obtained from patients, either in the operating room, ambulatory surgical unit, or physician offices as a means of identifying disease states and rendering pathologic diagnoses.

Unless otherwise noted below, all tissue samples removed during a surgical procedure must be submitted to the Laboratory for pathology examination by both gross inspection and microscopic examination.

Policy Provisions:

EXEMPT FROM SUBMISSION

The specimens identified below may be exempt from submission to the Laboratory for pathology examination given that alternative means of documentation of their removal and handling are provided. However, any of the following tissues may be submitted for examination if requested by Surgical Medical Staff.

- Accessory digits
- Bone segments removed for corrective or reconstructive orthopedic procedures
- Bone from total knee replacements
- Torn menisci
- Bunions and hammer toes

- Cataracts
- Dental appliances
- Fat removed via liposuction
- Femoral heads from routine hip replacement
- Foreign bodies such as bullets that may be provided directly to law enforcement personnel for medicolegal purposes
- Foreskin from newborn infants (within first month of life)
- Medical devices such as catheters, gastrostomy tubes, stents, etc., that have not contributed to patient illness, injury or death
- Middle ear ossicles
- Orthopedic debridement tissue
- Orthopedic hardware
- Placentas that do not meet criteria for examination (as determined by the gynecologist)
- Skin or normal tissue during cosmetic or reconstructive surgery
- Therapeutic radioactive sources
- Normal toenails or fingernails that are incidentally removed

GROSS EXAMINATION ONLY

The specimens listed below may require gross examination only. However, at the discretion of the surgical pathologist, these specimens may also require microscopic examination:

- Biomedical devices
- Calculi, various sites
- Extra-ocular muscle for corrective surgical procedures
- Hernia sac(s) and cord lipomata
- Nasal bone and cartilage
- Prosthetic breast implants
- Teeth
- Tonsils and adenoids in children 16 years of age or less
- Varicose veins

References:

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- Cornell WB, Levin HS. The inguinal hernia sac: trash or treasure? *Anatomic pathology II check sample, APII-9.* Chicago, IL: American Society of Clinical Pathologists, 1993:17(4);
- Delong WH, Grignon DJ. Pathologic findings in ribs removed at the time of radical nephrectomy for renal cell carcinoma. *Int J Surg Pathol.* 1994; 1:177-180;

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- Raab SS. The cost-effectiveness of routine histologic examination. Am J Clin Pathol. 1998; 110:391-396;
- Zarbo RJ, Nakleh RE: Surgical pathology specimens for gross examination only and exempt from submission. A College of American Pathologists Q-Probes study of current policies in 413 institutions. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 1999; 123:133-139.