Sparrow Lab
Anatomic Pathology
Lansing, MI

Nerve Biopsy Protocol

PROCEDURE:

1. Upon notification of impending nerve biopsy, contact Sparrow Histology several days before the biopsy so they can prepare for its arrival. (517-364-2542)

2. The biopsy procedure and specimen transport must be appropriately scheduled in the morning so that the specimen can arrive for processing by a technician in Pathology before 2:30pm.

3. For optimal completion of the required studies, a 6 to 10 cm segment of nerve should be obtained. Please note that less than 3 to 4 cm will seriously compromise the evaluation. Caution: Mechanical trauma should be avoided since even gently handling of the fresh nerve fascicles can induce serious histological artifacts. Care must be taken not to damage the nerve specimen, by compression or stretching, during and after the biopsy. Do not try to cut small pieces of fresh nerve, as it will produce unsatisfactory and uninterpretable crush artifacts.

4. The surgeon should be advised to cut out the <u>entire thickness</u> of the nerve, not a single fascicle. The specimen should be examined immediately to verify that is a nerve and not a vein.

5. After the neural nature of the specimen has been confirmed, the specimen should be gently wrapped in <u>saline moistened gauze</u> to prevent drying, then put within a specimen jar, and close the lid.

6. Place the specimen jar in a small ice chest packed with **wet ice** for transport ASAP to the Sparrow Pathology Department. (**DO NOT PUT IN FORMALIN, DO NOT FREEZE**)

7. Package the Patients Clinical Information Form for Muscle/Nerve Biopsy Tissue Examination that was sent by the surgeon along with the specimen.

8. Before shipping be sure that copies are made of all the information received from the surgeon and keep it for our file. It will also be logged into the send out book.

9. Call the Histology Laboratory of Sparrow Pathology Department (517-364-2542) and give an estimated time of arrival.

10. Call a courier for STAT delivery.