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## **Disposal of Tissues and Fixatives – Myometrial Group**

### **1.0 Purpose and scope.**

Tissue that is no longer required must be disposed of in a safe and sensitive manner. Disposal must be undertaken properly to prevent accidental infection or release of biological agents or hazards

### **2.0 COSHH / Health & Safety.**

Local Health and Safety regulations with regard to wearing appropriate PPE and the use of adequate ventilation where appropriate must be adhered to.  
Departmental COSHH and BioCOSHH forms should be completed.

#### **HAZARD ASSESSMENT:**

Chlorox: evidence of mutagenic effects; causes burns to eyes and skin. Bleaches. Toxic by ingestion, causing internal irritation and damage. Toxic vapour. Liberates highly toxic gases in contact with acids.

Formalin: is toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed. Causes burns, may cause sensitisation by skin contact. Highly flammable.

#### **TOXICITY:**

Formalin can cause sensitisation of skin and allergic respiratory reaction.

#### **FIRST AID:**

In case of contact with skin or eyes, wash with copious amounts of water. Remove contaminated clothing. If swallowed, wash out mouth with water provided individual is conscious. If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If breathing becomes difficult, seek medical advice.

#### **SPILLAGE:**

Isolate contaminated area, absorb into dry earth or sand. Ventilate area and wash spill site with copious amounts of water. Wear self-contained breathing apparatus.

### **3.0 Equipment / reagents.**

Appropriate PPE, plastic/glass beakers, yellow clinical waste bags and white bucket, 10% neutral buffered formalin.

## 4.0 References

HTA

University/Faculty Policy

Department of Cellular Pathology, Royal Victoria Infirmary

## 5.0 Procedure

For fresh tissue debris post dissection:

1. Remove tissue debris from petri dishes and fix in formalin for 48 hours and dispose of as below.
2. If placenta, place the remainder directly into double bagged yellow clinical waste bag and place the patient's hospital details sticker on it. Put the yellow bag into a white bucket and return to delivery suite, RVI for incineration.
3. Soak petri dishes and dissecting instruments in 5% virkon for at least 10 minutes then rinse thoroughly with water.

For fresh tissue of poor quality:

1. Fix the tissue in formalin for 48 hours.
2. Take the formalin pot to Cellular Pathology, RVI for disposal.
3. Amend records accordingly with mode and date of disposal.

## 6.0 Site Specific Details

Personnel: Staff and students within Uteroplacental Tissue Bank Group,  
Institute of Genetic Medicine (under supervision of tissue bank  
co-ordinator)

Laboratory staff of Department of Cellular Pathology,  
Royal Victoria Infirmary

Location: G205, 2nd Floor East Wing, ICfL