

Disposal of Tissues and Fixatives – Placental Group

1.0 Purpose and scope.

Tissue that is no longer required must be disposed of in a safe and sensitive manner.

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:

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. Yellow clinical waste bags, white bucket, 10% neutral buffered formalin.

4.0 References

HTA

University/Faculty Policy

Department of Cellular Pathology, Royal Victoria Infirmary

5.0 Procedure

For Termination of Pregnancy tissues

- **All Termination of Pregnancy samples must be sent for cremation** via the mortuary in the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Level 2, New Victoria Wing
- All residual tissue to be put into formalin in a secure container labelled with the patient hospital number.
- A form is completed to accompany tissue.
- After 24 hours the labelled pots are taken, with a completed and signed form, to the mortuary.
- The mortuary attendant checks the numbers against the form and signs to say they have been received. A copy of the form is retained by the mortuary and laboratory.

For fresh and frozen tissues other than Termination of Pregnancy tissues:

1. Discard tissue directly into double bagged yellow clinical waste bag for incineration OR fix in formalin for 48 hours and take to Cellular Pathology, RVI for disposal.
2. If placenta, place the remainder of the placenta directly into double bagged yellow clinical waste bags and place the patient's hospital details sticker on the bag. Place the yellow bag into a white bucket and return to delivery suite for incineration
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 Cellular Medicine (under supervision of tissue bank
co-ordinator)

Laboratory staff of Department of Cellular Pathology,
Royal Victoria Infirmary

Location: 3rd Floor, Leech Building, Newcastle University
Department of Cellular Pathology, Royal Victoria Infirmary