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## **Transport of specimens to the laboratory – Myometrial Group**

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

Tissue samples may be collected from patients for research purposes. Tissues should be collected from the Operating Theatre/Delivery Suite as soon as they are available after notification from the Operating Theatre/Delivery Suite staff. Tissues will usually be collected in a fresh state for further handling within the laboratory.

Fresh tissues may be rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen cooled isopentane. Fresh tissues may be subjected to enzyme digestion for cell purification, dissected for storage for protein and RNA extraction or dissected for functional studies.

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

Tissue samples should be regarded as low hazard clinical and biological samples (Category B).

This SOP refers only to collection of samples from the RVI operating theatres or delivery suite to be transported to the ICfL. A member of staff will travel with the samples at all times.

Appropriate BIOCOSHH assessment should be completed because of the risk of exposure to unfixed tissues.

Ensure that all staff are familiar with safe handling procedures and have read and understood the COSHH assessment.

Ensure that all staff are familiar with the route to and from the Operating Theatres/Delivery Suite.

Ensure that all staff are aware of the regulations regarding wearing of laboratory coats and protective gloves in the hospital corridors.

### **3.1 Equipment / reagents**

- Primary container: watertight sealed opaque plastic container.
- Secondary container: Clean, sealed polythene bag
- Outer container: sealed leak-proof bag which is clearly labelled with research group name, location and contact details.

## 4.1 References

### 4.2 HTA

### 4.3 University/Faculty Policy

### 4.4 Delivery Suite, Obstetrics, Royal Victoria Infirmary

### 4.5 Royal Victoria Infirmary Guidelines for Transport of Specimens

## 5.1 Procedure

### Collection of Specimens from Operating Theatre in Delivery Suite and Transport to Uteroplacental tissue bank laboratories, ICfL

1. Receive telephone call regarding availability of specimens to collect from Operating Theatre/Delivery Suite.
2. Retrieve equipment for collection and proceed to Operating Theatre/Delivery Suite.
3. Collect sample with the sample information sheet
  - a. **The sample information sheet must be collected with the sample**
  - b. **Do not accept a sample unless there is a sample information sheet**
  - c. **Check that the consent is documented on the front of the sample information sheet**
4. Place the sample into a sealed plastic container. Place the sealed plastic container into a polythene bag and seal. Place polythene bag containing the specimen into leak- proof bag which is clearly labelled with research group name, location and contact details.
5. Take the specimen to Uteroplacental Tissue Bank lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Leech Building to be assigned a Biobank number.
6. Phone colleague at ICfL to inform them of your intention to return with the specimen.
7. Return directly to ICfL Laboratory.

## 6.0 Site Specific Details

Personnel: Staff and students within Uteroplacental Tissue Bank Group, Institute of Genetic Medicine

Location: Operating Theatres and Delivery Suite, Royal Victoria Infirmary

Transport to: G205, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor East Wing, ICfL

Induction: All are provided with a written protocol with safety details. Demonstration is given with continuing supervision as necessary.