

Conjunctiva

Special arrangements

No special arrangements are necessary.

Fixation

10% neutral buffered formalin.

Special instructions

- ❖ Conjunctival tissue should be handled according to the following protocol to prevent curling of the tissue:
 - a) Spread the conjunctiva onto a flat, absorbent surface such as the paper wrapping for gloves or the file-card envelope for sutures. Some surgeons have used their business cards for this purpose. Another surface suggested for this purpose is filter paper.
 - b) Allow the conjunctival tissue to become adherent to the surface for approximately 20-30 seconds.
- ❖ When the tissue is adherent to its support, float the supporting surface and tissue onto formalin with the tissue surface **facing up**. The absorbent material will soak up fixative and sink. The specimen will be received in the pathology laboratory with its proper orientation preserved.
- ❖ It is important that an accurate clinical diagnosis accompany the specimen. For example, conjunctival biopsies to rule out sarcoid are handled differently by the grossing pathologist from biopsies for suspected neoplasms.
- ❖ Follow the instructions listed under General Information for Routine Specimen Collection for proper packaging and labeling of routine specimens and how to fill out the Ocular Pathology request form.
- ❖ Follow the procedure under General Information on Collection and Handling of Specimens for proper specimen sending information.