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Histopathology User Manual

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Author / Reviewer: Luis Campos / Wisdom Musabaike

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CONTACTS

E-mail: gosh.histopathology@nhs.net
histopathology@gosh.nhs.uk (Internal Only)

Direct Line: 020 7829 8663
Fax: 020 7829 7875

Pneumatic Tube 031

Consultant Pathologists

Prof. Thomas Jacques, Clinical Lead 6950
Dr Samantha Levine 5473
Dr Ciaran Hutchinson 5471
Prof. Neil Sebire 5461
Dr Liina Palm 5470
Dr Thivya Sekar 5486
Dr Ashirwad Merve 5078
Dr Atul Kumar 34282

Laboratory Manager

Mr Peter Helliwell 5466

Laboratory Medicine Lead Lab Manager

Mrs Christine Morris 8664

LABORATORY 020 7405 9200
Specimen Reception 5476 / 5475
Main Laboratory 5475 / 5476
Electron Microscopy 5462

OFFICE 8663 / 6108

REPORTING ROOM

Clinical Electron Microscopist

Mr. Glenn Anderson 7907

Advanced Practitioner

Ms Dyanne Rampling 5444

MORTUARY

Ms Lakiesha Ward Mortuary Manager 7906 or Bleep 0608

5484 / 7906

ON-CALL OUT OF HOURS

On-call Paediatric Pathologist Mobile phone via GOS Switchboard
On-call Neuropathologist Mobile phone via GOS Switchboard
Duty Biomedical Scientist 07712 403978 via GOS Switchboard

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LOCATION AND OPENING HOURS

The department is accommodated on Level 3 and Level 0 in the Camelia Botnar Laboratories. The main laboratory and consultant office are located on Level 3. The mortuary is located on Level 0, in the basement of the laboratory complex. Opening hours are **Monday to Friday from 09.00 am to 5.30 pm**. The department is closed on Saturday, Sunday, and statutory holidays.

Full Postal Address:

Histopathology Department
Level 3
Camelia Botnar Laboratories
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS FT
85 Lamb's Conduit Street
London
WC1N 3NN

ON-CALL OUT-OF-HOURS SERVICE

The department provides a limited on-call service to facilitate urgent clinical diagnosis out of hours. There are three members of staff on call (on separate rotas):

	Service provided	Hours of on-call working day	Hours of on-call weekends and bank holidays	Contacted
Paediatric Pathology Consultant	Diagnosis of and advice on non-neurological samples taken out of hours	8.30am-9:00pm	8.30am-9:00pm	via switchboard
Neuropathology Consultant	Intraoperative diagnosis for neurosurgical procedures	10:00am-6:30pm	10:00am-4:00pm	via switchboard
Biomedical Scientist (BMS)	Technical support for samples taken out of hours	8.30am-9:00pm	8.30am-9:00pm	via switchboard

The consultants and BMS are contactable by phone via the switchboard who hold copies of the on-call rotas.

The out of hours service is designed to provide the tests required to make an urgent diagnosis that will affect clinical management before the next working day, rather than to recapitulate the full service that would be offered in working hours. Therefore, the pathology consultant and referring clinical consultant will need to consider the risks and benefits of offering a diagnosis out of hours versus the alternative of rapidly processing the sample the next working day. This requires specialist clinical and pathological knowledge, and therefore a referral for an out of hours diagnosis should be made by the clinical consultant to the pathology consultant. In order to facilitate this discussion and the arrival of the consultant and BMS in the hospital, the pathology consultant should be contacted as soon as it is decided that a patient will be taken to theatre, and in all cases, at least 2 hours before the tissue arrives in the department.

In exceptional circumstances, a clinical consultant may request an opinion out of hours on a patient undergoing a planned procedure during working hours. Such cases should be discussed with the laboratory director/clinical lead (or his/her deputy) or the Chief of Laboratory Medicine.

TRAINING

Specialist Registrars in paediatric pathology or neuropathology train in the department under the supervision of the reporting consultants.

RESEARCH

The department has an active research programme. It also offers a research service for scientists and clinicians at GOSH, UCL and further afield.

Contact e-mail for Research Histopathology: Research.Histo@gosh.nhs.uk

RELATED POLICIES

Quality Manual – SQU 006

Scope and Strategy – SOR 001

SCOPE OF ROUTINE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE

Autopsy

The department offers a comprehensive paediatric autopsy service.

Particular areas of expertise include the investigation of complex childhood deaths (including forensic autopsies, and deaths involving neurological, cardiac or metabolic disease) and minimally invasive autopsies.

The principal categories of cases include:

1. Consented post-mortems: Patients in whom consent for post-mortem examination has been granted by the family. These fall into two broad categories:

a. Perinatal autopsies: These are autopsies undertaken on fetuses who have suffered an intra-uterine death or from pregnancies that have been terminated for an antenatally detected abnormality. The principal purposes are to assist families in coping with their loss and to support counselling for future pregnancies including any subsequent genetic investigations. Subject to consent, these autopsies can also support governance of clinical services, training and research. The Trust has a contract with NHS England to provide a perinatal autopsy service, and this is offered to a wide range of obstetric units across the southeast of the country. Depending on the clinical indication and consent, the department can offer full post-mortem examinations, limited post-mortems, minimally and non-invasive post-mortems using MicroCT, USS and MRI imaging techniques, and placental examination.

b. Post-natal deaths: These are investigations undertaken where the death is not being investigated by the coroner (e.g., the cause of death is known) but that the family have granted consent for a post-mortem investigation. The purpose of these cases varies but may be to answer questions raised by the family, to answer questions raised by the clinicians, or to contribute to a better understanding of the disease from which the child suffered including through research.

2. Post-mortems undertaken under coronial authority:

a. Coroners' post-mortems are undertaken at the request of coroners in London, the Home Counties and further afield. The purpose is to establish a cause of death. Many of these are sudden unexpected deaths in infancy or childhood.

b. Special forensic post-mortems are undertaken at the request of the police, for example cases where non-accidental injury or homicide is suspected. These are performed by a paediatric pathologist in conjunction with a forensic pathologist. The department also has a specialist service for the examination of the nervous system in such cases.

3. Referred post-mortem material for specialist opinion. These are usually brains, hearts, or slides and/or blocks.

Neuropathology

The neuropathology service supports the specialist neuroscience services at Great Ormond Street Hospital, which include the largest paediatric neuro-oncology service in the UK and the largest childhood epilepsy surgery service. In addition, we provide the only dedicated specialised paediatric neuropathology service in the UK, and one of only a few in Europe. Therefore, we offer a national and international referral service.

The service is closely linked to the north Thames Genomics Laboratory Hub through which it offers a specialist service for molecular pathology.

In addition, it provides specialist support for the autopsy service where the death may involve pathology of the nervous system, including forensic cases.

The service can offer expert opinion in the full range of paediatric neuropathology but has particular expertise in tumour and molecular pathology, epilepsy pathology, inflammatory muscle and brain disease in children, metabolic disease and post-mortem investigation.

The principal case types include:

- Tumour biopsies and resections
- Intraoperative diagnosis for children undergoing neurosurgery
- Epilepsy surgery
- Spinal malformations
- Muscle biopsies, and combined muscle/skin biopsies
- CSF cytology
- Ophthalmic pathology
- Post-mortem brains, spinal cords and dura

The department supports a formally constituted multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting in neuro-oncology. In addition, we support a clinicopathological meeting for neurology.

Paediatric surgical pathology

The departments offer a diagnostic service for samples taken at biopsy or resection from a wide range of specialist clinical services at Great Ormond Street Hospital, which include the largest paediatric oncology service in the UK, and specialist paediatric services for cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery (including transplants), rheumatology and orthopaedics, gastroenterology, renal medicine (including transplants), dermatology and ENT.

The department offers a national and international referral service for surgical pathology.

The service can offer expert opinion in the full range of paediatric surgical pathology but has particular expertise in tumour, renal, cardiac, pulmonary, placental, skin and gastrointestinal pathology.

The principal case types include:

- Tumour biopsies and resections
- A rapid frozen section service for rectal suction biopsies in cases of suspected Hirschsprung's disease
- Intraoperative diagnosis for a range of clinical scenarios and in particular Hirschsprung's disease, and persistent hyperinsulinaemic hypoglycaemia of infancy (PHHI)

- Renal biopsies (native and transplant)
- Cardiac biopsies and explants
- Lung biopsies and explants
- Gastrointestinal biopsies and resections
- Placentas
- Skin biopsies and excisions
- Bone marrow trephines

The department supports two formally constituted multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings, one in oncology (non-CNS tumours) and one in haemato-oncology. In addition, we offer clinicopathological meetings across a broad range of clinical services.

Electron microscopy and metabolic disease

The department offers a highly specialist service in electron microscopy (EM) and metabolic disease. This not only offers routine EM services (e.g., for renal and muscle biopsies) but also support the diagnosis of a range of metabolic and genetic disease in children. Particular areas of expertise include:

- Diagnosis and monitoring of lysosomal storage diseases (using blood films, buffy coats, bone marrow and urine samples).
- Diagnosis of genetic disorders using microscopy of hair samples
- A pre-natal diagnostic service for metabolic disorders on chorionic-villus samples
- Examination of platelets for Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome
- Ultrastructural examination for rare paediatric disorders including childhood enteropathies such as microvillous inclusion disease, lung surfactant disorders
- Ultrastructural interpretation and support for research and clinical trials is encouraged

The department also provides service to the EM service at Epsom and St Helier's Trust and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS

Ordering histopathology investigation on EPIC (Internal)

Please refer to the Theatre Specimen Management Standard Operating Procedure and to ASOP 004a Sending Samples to the Laboratory (Sample Transport SOP).

To ensure the appropriate order is placed on EPIC i) the person making the request must be familiar with the case; ii) a clinical question must be clearly asked; iii) relevant contact details must be specified.

Completion of requests forms (External)

External organisations should complete the appropriate form depending on type of specimen / tests required.

The forms to be completed (SFM 217 & SFM 218) can be found at <http://www.labs.gosh.nhs.uk/laboratory-services/histopathology/send-us-a-sample>

All sections, apart from 'LABORATORY USE ONLY' and 'CHARGE', must be completed.

Specimen container

When a specimen is routinely fixed in 10% buffered formalin, please make sure that it is placed in a pot of adequate size, and in an adequate amount of formalin (X10 the volume of the specimen). Containers should be histopathology specific, with a secure lid. The pot must be labelled properly according to Trust Labelling Policy with the patient's name, hospital number, consultant, and the nature of the specimen (EPIC Generated container label for Internal cases). All pots containing formalin must also carry a COSHH hazard label. All pots supplied by Histopathology are pre-labelled with COSHH information and individual stickers are also supplied by the department.

If a specimen is likely to be infectious, and particularly if the specimen is sent fresh, it must have a biohazard label and the possibility of infection should be clearly indicated (i.e., Hepatitis B positive).

Rejection conditions

Specimens that are sent to the laboratory unlabelled or with the wrong container label will be returned to source and kept unprocessed until the error has been rectified. This follows the Trust's *Unlabelled or Mislabeled Samples by Paediatric Laboratory Medicine Policy*

http://goshweb.pangosh.nhs.uk/document_library/Corporate_Library/Accepting_unlabelled_or_Mislabeled_samples_by_Paediatric_Laboratory_Medicine_Policy.pdf

Transport of specimens to the laboratory

Routine specimens are collected with their request forms from the operating theatres, wards, and out-patient clinics. They are delivered to the laboratory by a porter, nurse, or clinician present during procedure. Occasionally samples are delivered to laboratory via the pneumatic tube system (No 031). Urgent intra-operative frozen section specimens should be booked at least a day in advance. The specimen is brought to Histopathology specimen reception, with the correct container label. Other specimens requiring urgent handling should be discussed in advance with a pathologist and should be taken to the Histopathology department by one of the team and handed to the pathologist.

Please DO NOT send fresh specimens by the pneumatic tube system.

Out-of-hours

Specimens from operations performed out of hours which do not require urgent pathological examination **should be left in formalin** for collection in the operating theatres in the normal way. Alternatively, they can be left in the Histopathology Specimen Reception, but you must ensure SFM 216 - Out of hours specimens (formalin fixed) form is completed.

Please DO NOT leave fresh specimens out of hours in any circumstances.

Out of hours fresh specimens must be communicated to the lab following the procedure for the on-call out-of-hours service. Users should avoid as much as possible collecting fresh samples during the night, outside the on-call out-of-hours service. If fresh tissue specimens are collected outside the on-call out-of-hours service the tissue must be taken to Chemical Pathology, Level 5, Camelia Botnar Laboratories, so that it can be frozen there and collected by histopathology staff the next working day.

Fresh Specimens

It is recommended that the following specimens are sent 'fresh' (unfixed) to the laboratory (i.e., in a sterile specimen pot with no formalin). Full clinical details are always essential. Please note that the following list is not exclusive. If in doubt advice should be sought from either the Pathologist or Biomedical Scientist.

Any biopsy querying a metabolic disorder in the differential diagnosis

Send fresh in saline soaked gauze or on saline moistened filter paper in a sterile pot. These specimens must be discussed with consultant pathologist prior to sending.

Any biopsy querying a bacterial or viral infection

Only the specimen being sent to Microbiology should be sent fresh in a sterile pot. The specimen being sent to Histopathology should be sent in formalin. A request order for both departments should be raised on EPIC. Clearly mark nature of possible infection on the containers.

Blood for metabolic screen

Send at least 2ml of EDTA blood.
Blood samples may be sent via haematology.

Liver Biopsies

Send fresh in saline in a sterile pot.

Lymph node biopsies

Send fresh in a sterile pot. Clearly indicate differential diagnosis.

Non-Gynae Cytology (in a paediatric pathology context)

CSF, the volume of CSF that is taken is a safety question for the responsible clinician, but for the laboratory, the minimum is 0.6ml and large volumes (e.g., >3ml) may be associated with fewer false negatives.

BAL, fresh in a sterile container (universal) minimum volume of 0.6 ml

Urine, fresh in a sterile container (universal) minimum volume of 0.6 ml

Rectal Suction Biopsies – for suspected Hirschsprung's disease

Send fresh on saline moistened filter paper in a sterile pot.
Clearly mark the level of the biopsy on the specimen pot.

Renal biopsies

Collected by laboratory BMS staff. These should be pre-booked (5475/5476). Urgent Renal Biopsy should be discussed in advance with by clinician with a consultant pathologist.

Skin biopsy for Electron microscopy

Send fresh on saline soaked gauze and in a sterile pot

Skin biopsy requiring immunofluorescence (IMF)

Two separate pieces of skin must be submitted to Histopathology.

- One piece of skin on Michel's Medium for IMF (containers provided by the department, please contact specimen reception);
- One piece of skin on formalin for routine paraffin processing.

Tumour biopsies and tumour resection specimens

Send fresh, in a sterile pot of saline for biopsies and dry for resection specimens.

Neuropathology Specimens

Brain

The brain should be removed according to PM best practice, severing the spinal cord as low in the foramen magnum as possible.

Do not leave fresh brain for more than 15 minutes on the bench before fixing as two frequently encountered artefacts will occur:

- 1) Distortion and flattening of the base or curvature of the cerebrum.
- 2) Drying artefact, which produces discolouration of the outer 1cm of the coronal slices.

After weighing, the brain should be suspended by strong thread, looped under the Basilar artery, in a 5-litre bucket containing a sufficiency of strong formalin (ideally 20% formalin in 1% saline). This fixative should be changed after 24 hours, taking care to support the brain while in the unbuoyed state.

Great care should be taken to avoid disruption of the tissue (particular with soft fetal brains).

Spinal Cord

The spinal cord should be dissected out, preferably attached to representative spinal ganglia. It is not necessary to suspend the cord or open the Dura; it will fix perfectly well in the 5-litre bucket with the brain.

The optimal time to fix is at least 2 weeks but this may need to be reduced where necessary.

Decant the formalin and wrap the brain and cord in couch roll soaked with a little formalin to prevent drying.

Double-bag the wrapped tissues in a labelled, leak proof polythene bag. Place in a rigid container, such as a histopathology specimen bucket, with adequate padding around the tissues to prevent disruption in transit.

Referrals

All referrals should be discussed with the consultant neuropathologist prior to dispatch. Please give adequate notice of the impending arrival by telephoning:

020 7829 8663 Ext. 5484 or Fax 020 7829 7875

Ensure all relevant patient identifiable information is attached to the container, along with any local pathology/PM reports and consent documentation and then dispatch with a reliable carrier or courier service to:

Prof. T.S. Jacques

Consultant Neuropathologist

Histopathology,

Level 3, Camelia Botnar Laboratories

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust

85 Lamb's Conduit Street

LONDON

WC1N 3JH

Muscle Biopsies

Handling guidelines

Skeletal muscle presents particular difficulties in biopsy as a result of its contractile property, its marked susceptibility to ice crystal artefact and the necessity for the muscle fibres to be orientated in transverse section (TS).

Good communication between theatre/sender and laboratory ensures rapid and timely handling. Muscle tissue does not autolyse rapidly, but the delay between excision and freezing should not exceed 2 hours absolute maximum. The quicker the sample is received into the laboratory, orientated, and frozen the better.

Clinical details

Please include as much relevant clinical information as possible when you answer the clinical question when placing your order on EPIC as this determines the work-up required within the laboratory. Please state which muscle has been biopsied. Any queries, please contact the neuropathologist.

Sample size

The minimal optimum sample size is a cylinder of tissue 1cm long and 0.5cm diameter with the long axis parallel with the grain of the muscle fibres.

Instructions for dispatch for Internal cases (GOSH)

Please contact the histopathology department on extension 5475/5476 to inform of biopsy expected arrival time, preferably before 4:30pm unless otherwise arranged. The sample for histochemistry and electron microscopy must be wrapped in saline **dampened** gauze. Please do not over soak the gauze as this causes saline artefact, equally if the sample is too dry this affects the tissue quality.

All samples must be delivered rapidly to Histopathology, level 3, Camelia Botnar Laboratory. Biopsies must come to the laboratory as soon as possible as the enzymes we try to demonstrate begin to degrade soon (20mins) after removal from the patient. This must be made very clear to the portering staff. It is preferable if the SpR involved with the case brings the tissue to the lab, if possible.

If a specimen is collected outside the on-call out-of-hours service the tissue must be taken to Chemical Pathology, Level 5, Camelia Botnar Laboratories, so that it can be frozen there and collected by histopathology staff the next working day.

If tissue is for Respiratory Chain Enzyme Assay, please request mitochondrial respiratory chain enzymes on EPIC and follow the Sample Handling instructions on the form. If further clarification is required, please call extension Ext 7874.

Where skin biopsies are taken alongside muscle biopsies, please send the skin specimen on saline dampened gauze in a separate specimen container.

If you require Fibroblast culture on a skin biopsy, you will need skin transport medium which is available from Chemical Pathology, Level 5, Camelia Botnar Laboratories. Ext 1785 (working Hours), 5009 (Out of Hours). The sample is then sent to the Enzyme Lab in the ICH, via Chemical Pathology.

Instructions for dispatch for External cases - London

Please contact the Histopathology Department 020 7405 9200 (direct ext. 5475/7576) to inform when a muscle has been dispatched to the department.

Hospitals within London must ensure that the fresh tissue, wrapped in saline dampened gauze is received at GOSH laboratory **urgently**. Traffic is a problem and motorcycle couriers can get through the traffic easier than a car.

If there is a problem with transport, it is advisable to get the muscle 'snap frozen' prior to dispatch as per instructions below for national and international external cases. The tissue should then be dispatched on dry ice to arrive the same day before 4.30pm or alternatively early the next working day. Please inform the department when a sample is expected.

Instructions for dispatch for External cases – National / International

Samples must be sent snap-frozen, transported on dry ice to histopathology from external hospitals outside of London or if transport is likely to exceed 1 hour. In addition, part of the sample must be taken and placed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde for transport.

The tissue must be handled on site as above (rapidly in saline dampened gauze) and then frozen in such a way as to avoid ice crystal artefact.

Recommended freezing methods:

- Snap freezing in hexane/dry ice bath

Please contact the neuropathologist and/or the laboratory to inform of expected time of arrival of the muscle biopsy, confirming when dispatched on dry ice. Receipt of the sample will be confirmed to the sender.

If tissue is for Respiratory Chain Enzyme Assay, please contact the Neurometabolic Unit NHNN for sample requirements and collection instructions.

Dr Amanda Lam, Principal Clinical Scientist, Mitochondrial Biochemistry, Neurometabolic Unit, NHNN, UCLH; (Joint position UCLH and GOSH)

Amanda.lam@gosh.nhs.uk; amanda.lam@nhs.net

Tel. 0203 448 3818 / 3844

Key factors known to affect test performance or interpretation of results

- Poor fixation
- Delayed transport of fresh specimens to the laboratory / delayed freezing
- Insufficient/inadequate clinical information

A pathological report is an opinion, and, like all consultant opinions, it is conditioned by the clinical information supplied to the reporting pathologist by their clinical colleagues. Any complicated case should be discussed in advance of the biopsy with the pathologist so that the tissue can be handled in the most appropriate way.

POST-MORTEMS

It is recommended that the ward booklet 'When a Child Dies' is read for details of death certification, registration and the reporting of cases to HM Coroner.

The post-mortem service is available Monday to Friday 8.30 to 5pm. Post-mortem examinations are not performed out of hours under any circumstances and are not performed on weekends, national or statutory hospital holidays. An out of hours post-mortem service is not routinely provided.

Consented post-mortem

It is recommended that a pathologist be consulted before consent is obtained, particularly for limited post-mortem examinations. A consent form must be properly completed, dated, and signed and the Mortuary informed that a post-mortem is requested. Verbal or telephoned consent is not normally acceptable. An e-mailed consent form is acceptable, provided it is countersigned by the doctor who has taken the consent (in the case of an e-mailed consent form this may be the GP or a doctor from another hospital).

If the family is reluctant to consent to a full post-mortem examination, the option of a partial/limited post-mortem examination may be offered. This option should be discussed with the pathologist before the consent form is signed, to make sure that the examination can answer the questions being asked.

The post-mortem examination is performed as soon as practicable, but it is recommended that families are offered at least a 24-hour cooling-off period before commencing the post mortem examination during which time they can change their minds (unless, for religious or other reasons, the family specifically requests that the post mortem examination be conducted within 24 hours. Please note, however, that this depends on availability and the request will need to be discussed with the mortuary team and the pathologist. Members of the clinical team are encouraged to attend. The final report may take up to 6 weeks to complete, and sometimes longer for more complex cases, such as those requiring full neuropathological examination.

Coroners' post-mortems

Cases in which a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death cannot be completed (see the inside cover of the Death Certificate Book for details) should be referred to HM Coroner (St Pancras Coroner's Office, 0207 387 4884, Monday to Friday 9 am to 3.30pm). The case may be referred by the Coroner to another hospital for independent post-mortem.

In a Coroner's post-mortem the pathologist acts as the agent of the Coroner: the post mortem report is sent to the Coroner and all enquiries should be directed through the Coroner's Office. The Pathologist is not permitted to discuss the case with the clinical team without the express permission of the Coroner, until the Coroner's enquiry is complete.

Children dying out of hours from a suspected metabolic disorder

In a child dying out of hours from a suspected metabolic disorder, there is a protocol whereby, having obtained appropriate consent, immediate post-mortem muscle and liver biopsies are taken by the clinical team. The specimen is sent to Chemical Pathology laboratory where the on-call BMS stores the specimens in the freezer and passes them to the Histopathology Department on the next working day. The consent form used must either be the standard GOSH post-mortem consent form or the slightly amended version of the GOSH consent form, which is now available on NICU / PICU (see Protocol for Perimortem Sampling on the Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units).

N.B.: If a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death cannot be issued, the death needs to be referred to the Coroner and specimens cannot be taken.

AVAILABILITY OF CLINICAL ADVICE

Paraffin sections - same day result

These cases must be discussed with a pathologist by a consultant from the clinical team. In cases of genuine clinical urgency, a small specimen may be rapidly processed. For a large tumour specimen, this means one representative block. For a small specimen, if it is received in the laboratory by 12 noon, a section will be available for microscopic examination later the same day; a report will be telephoned and entered on the laboratory information system. A specimen arriving later will be available for reporting by 10.00 am the following morning.

Frozen sections

All planned fresh and frozen should be communicated by the consultant surgeon to the consultant histopathologist (NB There is a specific consultant on rota for neurosurgical samples and one for all other samples) a day IN ADVANCE. This is to allow the lab to plan appropriately for the specimen.

Diagnostic rectal biopsies: suspected Hirschsprung's disease

These must be discussed with a pathologist by a member of the clinical team of, consultant level. In cases of genuine clinical urgency (i.e., Hirschsprung's disease is diagnosed, the case will proceed to a colostomy on the same day) a rapid frozen section of a rectal suction biopsy will be performed and, provided the biopsy is adequate, an answer will be phoned through within an hour.

Booked intra-operative frozen section service

This is provided for the management of Hirschsprung's disease and the result is telephoned within 20 minutes of receipt of the specimen in the laboratory.

Intra-operative frozen sections of pancreas for persistent hyperinsulinaemic hypoglycaemia of infancy

These cases are discussed in advance by the medical and surgical team and the pathologists and a clear strategy is agreed by all **before** the operation. Intra-operative biopsies are discussed with the surgeon, and an appropriate surgical strategy agreed.

Intra-operative frozen sections in other clinical situations

A surgeon may request an intra-operative frozen section for diagnosis or guidance in resection of a tumour. This is carried out at the discretion of the pathologist after discussion with the surgeon as regards expectation of the procedure.

Intra-operative brain smears/frozen sections

Please notify neuropathology consultant of a smear one day before surgery or in case of emergency 2 hours before the smear is required. The specimen should be placed in a labelled universal bottle containing a small quantity of saline to keep the sample moist. A properly completed request form should be completed on EPIC including the telephone number to which the result needs to be reported. The sample should be sent to laboratory immediately after removal. The result will be phoned through to the theatre.

Routine cases

A report is usually issued within four working days of receipt of the specimen for small biopsies or within 7 working days for large resection specimens, unless an alternative agreement with local clinicians has been made. Where special techniques are performed on the sections, an interim report is issued, with an indication of when the final report can be expected. A consultant paediatric pathologist and a consultant neuropathologist is available for clinical advice during the working day (see on call details above). Clinical advice is given by telephone or by direct consultation.

Reports for internal cases will be made available on the LIMS. Requesting clinicians will be notified once the report is made available.

Reports for referred cases can be accessed directly from our online results portal via <http://www.labs.gosh.nhs.uk/laboratory-services/results-portal>
We will no longer be sending results via e-mail.

CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL MEETINGS

Members of the department are involved in a range of clinicopathological meetings and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings.

Names of patients for discussion at clinicopathological meetings must be supplied to the Histopathology Office by the relevant clinical team **at least 2 working days** before the date of the meeting.

Incidents

Incidents or errors that are internal to GOSH are reported onto the Quality Management Systems (DATIX and Q-Pulse) in line with the Department Internal Quality Control and External Quality Assurance policy SQU 001, and Identification and Control of Non-Conformities policy SQU 0014.

Complaints

All complaints should be channelled through the Clinical Lead and will be addressed in accordance with the Departments Complaints Policy AQU 013.

Compliments

Laboratory staff rarely have the opportunity to witness the positive impact of their efforts, thus receiving a compliment can be a rewarding and motivating experience. The Histopathology Department welcomes any compliments from its service users.

Confidentiality

The Department of Histopathology follows the GOSH Trust policy on Confidentiality of Personal Information. Internal Users can view the policy at http://goshweb.pangosh.nhs.uk/document_library/Corporate%20Library/Confidentiality%20Policy.pdf External Users may request a copy of the document by contacting the Histopathology Departmental manager.

Referral Laboratories

In some cases, the laboratory will seek second opinion or will refer samples to other laboratories for testing. The laboratory has a procedure for selecting and reviewing referral laboratories. Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of referral laboratories used.

**Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust
Histopathology User Manual**

Appendix 1: List of referral laboratories

REFERENCE LABORATORY	UNIT	TYPE OF SAMPLE REFERRED	UKAS ACCREDITATION NUMBER
Health Service Laboratory (HSL)	Cellular Pathology	Histopathological samples	9706
Health Service Laboratory – Advanced Diagnostics (HSL-AD)	Advanced Diagnostics	Specialised Immunohistochemistry and In-Situ Hybridisation tests	9007
University College London Hospitals (UCLH) NHS Foundation Trust	Cellular Pathology	Histopathological samples Haematolymphoreticular, Maxillo-facial pathology	9706
National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN) UCLH NHS Foundation	Cellular Pathology (Neuro)	Neuro(muscular)pathology	8116
Institute of Ophthalmology UCLH NHS Foundation	Department of Eye Pathology	Eye Pathology	8609
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust North West London Pathology	Cellular Pathology	Specialised Immunohistochemistry and In-Situ Hybridisation tests	9615
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	Cellular Pathology	Specialist unit for bone and soft tissue diseases	8680
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Liver Pathology	Liver Pathology	8805
St John's Institute of Dermatology St. Thomas' Hospital	Dermatopathology and Immunodermatology	Skin Pathology including Skin Immunofluorescence (IMF)	8126
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	Histopathology/ Cytopathology	Histopathological samples	9929
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	Cellular Pathology	Neuropathology Samples	8162
St Jude's Children's Research Hospital – Memphis, USA	Neuropathology	Neuropathology Samples	N/A