

Lymph Node Biopsy for Flow Cytometry

A lymph node biopsy may be sent for flow cytometry whenever there is a concern for lymphoma.

Specimens for flow cytometry must be placed in RPMI transport media. RPMI can be obtained from Physicians Laboratory. Take care to check the expiration date and replace when necessary.

Depending on the amount of tissue excised, divide the specimen in the following manner:

- Large specimen – send a 1x1x1cm piece minced in RPMI, remaining tissue in formalin.
- Small specimen (< 1x1x1cm) – split equally between formalin and RPMI
- Tiny specimen (< 5x.5x.5cm) – place all of the tissue into RPMI

Ensure that the RPMI is at ambient temperature when the specimen is added and transported. The tissue needs to be received at Physicians Laboratory within 48 hours to preserve viability.

Local Clients Only: If no RPMI is available and the specimen can arrive at Physicians Laboratory within 2 hours it may be sent on saline-moistened gauze. This is NOT an option for out-of-town clients as courier time needs to be factored in which would not meet the 2 hour standard.

If questions, please call Physicians Laboratory Client Services at 605-322-7212 and ask to speak with a hematopathologist.

