

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

## Tissue and Biopsies

A biopsy may be defined as a portion of tissue removed from the living body for further examination. Ideally these specimens should be discussed with the laboratory prior to sampling to ensure that transport and processing are timely and appropriate tests are performed

### General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Tissue or biopsy material in a microbiologically CE marked leak proof container without formalin.



**Specimen type:**

Tissue, Biopsy

Ulcer Biopsy

**Collection:** Collect specimens before antimicrobial therapy where possible.

**Specimen transport:** Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible

**Minimum volume of sample:** Large enough to carry out all microscopy preparations and cultures.

**Special precautions:** If specimen is small, place it in sterile water to prevent desiccation.

### Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** Not applicable

**Biological reference units:** Not applicable

**Turnaround time for provisional result (working days):**

Gram stain 30mins – 2hours within receipt into the Microbiology laboratory, on request.

Culture 1 day

**Turnaround time to final result (working days):** 2-3 days

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### Clinical information

**Clinical decision points:** Not applicable

**Factors known to significantly affect the results:** Specimens received in formol-saline are not suitable for culture. If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48 hr are undesirable.

**(Last updated December 2014)**