

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

Routine Fungal Culture Only is performed by the Microbiology Department. For any samples requiring Complex or Extended Fungal Investigation, please send a separate sample to the Mycology Reference Centre Mycology (MRCM).

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

NOTE: heart valve tissues can be requested as urgent samples to avoid delay in processing and to ensure an adequate sample tracking.

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

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Bacteriology

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): 5-7 days

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 November 2025)