This is a newly established research tissue bank that we would like to promote to UK coroners and pathologists as a resource for tissue donation. The Epilepsy Society Brain and Tissue Bank is based at the Institute of Neurology (UCL), has NRES approval (REC reference 12/SC/O669) and is HTA licenced (licence no.12198). It is generously supported by the Katy Baggott Foundation.

What tissue do we collect?
Brain tissue from patients with a clinical diagnosis of epilepsy, particularly in sudden and unexpected death in epilepsy cases (SUDEP). In many situations, it is the wish of the family for donation of brain tissue for research into epilepsy and causes of epilepsy deaths. This can be whole brains (preferable) or brain samples. We also collect spinal cord and other tissue samples where relevant to the cause of epilepsy. Until now there has been no dedicated UK tissue bank for epilepsy research.

Can we help you?
We can arrange rapid collection and transport of post-mortem samples from your mortuary to our laboratory and a fast turnaround time for a complete clinical neuropathology report in any epilepsy-related death. A full neuropathology report is recommended by the Royal College of Pathologists in epilepsy related deaths (http://www.rcpath.org/publicationsmedia/publications).
There will be no charges made to your department for the report*. Our Brain and Tissue Bank Manager will organise and facilitate this process of consent, donation and collection so that there is minimal extra work for the mortuary.

Who are we?
The epilepsy and neuropathology departments at UCL, Institute of Neurology have one of the largest and best-documented epilepsy tissue collections in the UK with over 600 consented tissue samples (both surgical and post-mortem samples) and we have an active research program with ongoing collaborations (see www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/departments/epilepsy). Epilepsy Society is the UK’s largest medical epilepsy charity (see www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/brainbank).

What are our aims?
To promote a wide variety of epilepsy research, through provision of relevant samples, acting as a national (and international) tissue resource. The brain bank has an ethics committee to oversee all aspects of research governance and HTA compliance. We also keep a registry of all living patients who wish to donate tissue following death.

*If the brain is donated for research there is no charge for this report. If the brain is not for donation and returned, a charge may be made to cover costs (estimates available on enquiry).
How can you contact us?

For information regarding brain donation, transportation or other questions contact:
Brain and Tissue Bank Manager Mrs. Gabriella Wright BSc Hons, PG Cert Neuroscience

For information regarding reports or research-related questions contact:
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