UCL Institute of Neurology

THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY

BOX 126

QUEEN SQUARE

LONDON

WC1N 3BG

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|  | For contact details see website  <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/clinical-divisions/division-neuropathology> |

**This is the procedure used at NHNN as described in SOP PE01**

**Procedure for sending peripheral nerve biopsies**

* Surgical removal of the sural nerve: minimum length necessary is 3cm in children and 4-6cm in adults.
* Immediately after removal (any delay after removal is detrimental as it leads to drying artifacts) it is laid flat on a piece of rough card avoiding any kinks or folds by gripping the epineurial sheath at one end with fine forceps. **Avoid squashing it.**
* Allow to adhere for 20 seconds and then divide into two equal halves with a thin razor blade. Make a quick clean surgical cut. Avoid tentative cuts as it may lead to disruption of the fascicles. Place one half immediately into a specimen container containing 3% gluteraldehyde in 0.05M Sodium cacodylate (or 0.05M phosphate buffer) buffer pH7.2-7.4 (EM fixative can be provided by us).
* The second half goes immediately into a separate bottle containing neutral buffered formalin (or formol saline).
* Label the sample with the patient details, enclose your contact details, time the biopsy was taken, and any other relevant information you think would be helpful.
* A copy of the clinical history, relevant investigations and the results of the nerve conduction studies must be included with the specimens. Nerve biopsies will not be reported in absence of the relevant clinical documents. Pack the samples into a box

### PLEASE INFORM US IF THERE IS ANY RISK OF INFECTION

* Clearly label the packet “For urgent attention” and courier to the following address:

Neuropathology Laboratory

Division of Neuropathology

UCL Institute of Neurology

Queen Square

London WC1N 3BG

Tel: 020 3448 4236

Fax: 020 3448 4486

**Please send the biopsy Monday-Friday between 9AM and 4PM. The specimens will not be collected after 4PM, or on weekends and bank holidays. It will be helpful if you can notify the laboratory on 020 3448 4236 before sending the biopsy.**

Please state whether the patient is an NHS or private case.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Specimens need to be prepared carefully – please telephone the laboratory well in advance of the biopsy to arrange for a Biomedical Scientist to attend the procedure and deal with the biopsy, specimens not handled in the correct way could render them useless for diagnosis.

**For any further queries regarding the procedure, please contact Dr Michael Groves** [**m.groves@ucl.ac.uk**](mailto:m.groves@ucl.ac.uk) **or Dr Vijay Stopps vijay.stopps@uclh.nhs.uk**