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CYTOLOGY ■ BIOPSY ■ MICROSCOPY

CBM Pathology now offering frozen sections.

CBM Pathology is committed to providing 24-48 hour turn around time on routine cases. To better meet our clients needs, frozen section consultation is now available when pathology results are needed STAT.

Pathology diagnosis by Frozen Section is thus available with the known limitations discussed (article at right) within a short time of the patient's procedure. The pathologist will call the surgeon to discuss the findings and the diagnosis. Similar to fresh tissue for Flow Cytometry, frozen samples require special handling. When a frozen section is needed, contact CBM Pathology to schedule a courier for the patient's procedure **at least one day prior** to the procedure. Provide CBM the patient's identification, appointment day, time and need for **"FROZEN SECTION SPECIAL PICK-UP"**. Our courier and our pathologist will then be ready for the Frozen Section. It is always considered STAT.

The histology staff and the Pathologists at CBM are trained to prepare and interpret tissue submitted to frozen section slide preparation. Within half an hour of receiving the specimens, our pathologists will call the surgeon to provide the frozen section pathology results. If the tissue requires multiple fragments to be frozen and examined, and/or margins, the time needed increases proportionally to the complexity of the case.

Samples will then be processed normally, to provide the final pathology diagnosis and report in 24 to 48 hours.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Frozen Section Pathology.

Frozen section technique shortens the time to preliminary diagnosis significantly from traditional tissue biopsy preparation. Once the specimen is received in the laboratory, pathology results are communicated within a short time. Surgeons can follow up with their patients when an urgent preliminary diagnosis is needed, often providing that benign versus malignant answer the same day.

Diagnostic accuracy of frozen sections is considered high when clinical relevance is demonstrated. However, when ordering frozen section diagnostic pathology, the referring doctor must also consider the limitations of a fast frozen section diagnosis: The pathologist is interpreting tissue morphology from a limited sample (for example, a 1 x 1 cm tissue fragment from a large uterus with mass) by using a modified H&E stains, and further limited without the special stains and/or immunohistochemistry at times needed for a final diagnosis. At times, a definitive frozen section diagnosis can not be made. At the pathologist's discretion, the pathologist will notify the surgeon that the diagnosis will be deferred to the final diagnosis.

The pathologist will provide as much diagnostic detail as available during the frozen section consultation, particularly in distinguishing malignancy from benign tissue. Specific histological subtype and grade may change after additional sampling and stains are performed. In some cases, the final diagnosis may differ from the frozen section diagnosis. The detailed definitive diagnostic pathology report, after all tissue is examined, will include these more specific findings.

Close cooperation is always required between the surgeon and pathologist, but this is specially important when using frozen section diagnosis. Patient history and relevant clinical information is important in routine anatomic pathology and critical to frozen pathology preparation and interpretation. Previous tissue biopsy or fine-needle aspiration findings, radiological findings and surgical findings are necessary for the pathologist to choose the correct fragment of tissue to freeze and to render a diagnosis on frozen sections. The more relevant patient information available to review, the more confident the pathologist can render a diagnosis.



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