

EPIDERMOLYSIS BULLOSA SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT

Stanford Dermatopathology
Phone : (650) 723-6736 • Fax: (650) 725-1336

Please complete and enclose the
Stanford Dermatopathology Requisition

- Diagnostic biopsies should be performed on a freshly induced blister. The biopsy should NOT be taken from an existing blister because re epithelialization results in multiple cleavage planes and other artifacts. **Please do not select an existing blister, even if it appears fresh, clinically.**
- A freshly induced blister is best achieved by rotating a pencil eraser on intact, normal skin. Rubbing is performed by applying firm downward pressure with a pencil eraser and then rotating the eraser laterally, at least 180 degrees each way.

In patients with severe EB with delicate skin that blisters easily, the pressure and rotation required may be minimal. For other patients, the skin is rubbed with the eraser at least 20 times, then observed. The area should turn red. If it is not, rub the area again with the eraser. After the skin turns red, wait 5 minutes before taking the biopsies.

- Please perform 2 punch biopsies (4 mm) of the red area. If a frank blister is visible after rubbing, perform the 2 biopsies at the edge of the blister, so that each sample contains about 1/3 lesional and 2/3 perilesional skin.
- **Do not bisect the punch biopsies.** The skin in EB patients is usually so fragile that bisecting a punch biopsy will denude the epidermis and render the specimen useless.

Epidermolysis Bullosa Biopsies Require Two Samples:

- Submit one biopsy in Michel's or Zeus Tissue Fixative for immunomapping.
- Submit second biopsy in Glutaraldehyde for Electron Microscopy.
- No H&E is necessary unless you suspect an autoimmune blistering disorder.
- Complete Stanford Dermatopathology Requisition with clinical history and clinical findings.

Please call Stanford Dermatopathology for questions or clarifications on instructions.

Glutaraldehyde and Michel's Tissue Fixative can be provided by Stanford.
Please call (650) 725-5196 to request supplies.

Stanford Pathology does NOT offer stain only services.

SPECIMEN HANDLING AND SHIPPING

- Check expiration date of Glutaraldehyde and Michel's/Zeus Tissue Fixative before use; do not use expired reagent.
- Specimen in Michel's or Zeus Tissue Fixative is good for up to 5 days at room temperature.
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FREEZE SPECIMENS** placed in Michel's or Zeus Tissue Fixative
- Shipping at room temperature is generally fine, but if there is concern that the specimen could be exposed to prolonged high temperatures en route, then it can be shipped cold with an icepack.
- **IMPORTANT: Specimens should be shipped by overnight express, (i.e. FEDEX) for next day morning delivery.**

All specimens should be shipped to:
Stanford Dermatopathology
300 Pasteur Drive, Room H2110
Stanford, CA 94305 5624