

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS: Haematological genetics (Includes Karyotyping, FISH, RT PCR and mutation testing)

TISSUE

Bone marrow:

- Conventional cytogenetics for acute leukaemias, MDS, MPD, CLL, MM and aplastic anaemia: 0.5-1ml in transport medium. For new **paediatric** acute leukaemias also send KCH (3 drops of BM in KCH to be fixed at referring laboratory); if transport medium is not available, send in lithium heparin.
- *KIT* and Myeloid NGS panel: 2-3ml in EDTA.

Blood:

- Conventional cytogenetics for new diagnosis CML, myelofibrosis or new acute leukaemias if no BM available: 5ml in lithium heparin.
- FISH for CLL/MCL and *TP53* mutation testing: 5ml in lithium heparin.
- Molecular studies of *JAK2*, *CALR*, *MPL*, *CSF3R*, *SETBP1*, etc.: 5ml in EDTA.
- *FIP1L1-PDGFR*A and Myeloid NGS panel: 10ml in EDTA.

Smears: for CLL or NHL with suitable FISH markers, FISH can be attempted on freshly made, unfixed, unstained smears (at least 4 smears) if no fresh material is available. Please note that FISH can be attempted on smears that have been stored for some time if no other material available.

Fresh biopsy: suitable containers with transport medium can be sent out on request. Otherwise please put the tumour specimen in sterile medium (e.g. RPMI) preferably containing serum.

FFPE sections / tumour dabs: slides containing unstained FFPE sections (3-4µm) or tumour dabs should contain at least 2 patient identifiers. Please package in a slide box. For large FFPE sections, please also send a H&E slide with the tumour area appropriately marked.

Other Tissues: lymph node, spleen, skin etc. should be sent in transport medium.

Details on both the referral card and the sample tube should be **complete and legible**. We reserve the right to refuse to process samples with incomplete, illegible or ambiguous patient information.

Any samples in the wrong tube or medium, or which are subject to significant delay in transit, are liable to be rejected.

SAMPLE DESPATCH AND TRANSPORT

Sample and referral card should be sent together in a secure leakproof package according to UN P650 packaging instructions, to arrive as soon as possible after collection e.g. by first class post, courier service or hospital transport. Outside packaging should be clearly labelled 'PATHOLOGICAL SAMPLES FOR DELIVERY TO GENETICS'.

Samples must be received by the lab as soon as possible. They should therefore be despatched by hospital transport, courier or 1st class post clearly labelled 'urgent'. Please phone us as soon as possible if anything is sent by courier which might arrive outside normal working hours. There is an on-call rota for acute presentations after hours on a Friday or at the weekend (please phone the switch board on 01722 336262).

If there is an unavoidable delay between the sample collection and despatch, blood or bone marrow may be stored at room temperature.

**For current information and to download copies of our referral forms and service guides
please refer to our web site www.wrql.org.uk**