

Appendix 2: Request for Cytogenetics (Prenatal and Postnatal) Services

General Information

1. The Cytogenetics Laboratory is staffed from Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm, Saturday 8:30am to 12:30pm. **All specimens should be shipped to the lab within 12-24 hours of collection. Specimen received after 48 hours of collection will nonetheless be processed but results may be compromised.**

For oversea specimens, avoid shipping on Friday or eve of public holidays.

2. Please send specimen to NUH Referral Laboratories (NRL). The billing will be done directly by NRL. Kindly contact NRL for further details.

Address: NUH Referral Laboratories, Level 1
NUH Main Building,
5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074.
Tel: 6778-5171, Fax: 6778-6220
Email: lee_kian_ng@nuhs.edu.sg
Attention To: Cytogenetics Laboratory

3. An interpretative report will be sent to the requesting Clinician/Medical Centre. Turnaround time will be 2 to 3 weeks from receipt of specimen to issuing of the report.

Specimen Requirement

1. Amniotic Fluid

20mL of amniotic fluid should be collected using a sterile syringe with a plastic (non-toxic) plunger in a sterile universal container with the cap tightened securely. The first 1-2mL of specimen obtained should be discarded to decrease chances of maternal cell contamination.

2. Chorionic Villus Sample(CVS)

Chorionic villi sampling is performed at 9 to 12 weeks gestational age. This enables results to be obtained in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Minimum sample size is 5 mg of chorionic villi, recommended sample size is 15 mg. 5-25 mg of chorionic villi should be collected using a sterile syringe with a plastic (non-toxic) plunger into a sterile universal container containing collection medium with the cap securely tightened.

Collection media will be provided upon request.

3. Product of Conception(POC)

Products of conception are obtained from surgical abortion. Preferred sample type is chorionic villi (CVS) from placenta. Other fetal tissue is also accepted, e.g. Achilles tendon or skin. Sample should be collected in a sterile universal container containing collection medium with the cap securely tightened.

Collection media will be provided upon request.

4. Fetal / Neonatal Blood, and Child / Adult Peripheral Blood (constitutional)

4mL of peripheral blood in sodium heparin (preferred) tube or lithium heparin tube. Minimum volume of 1-2mL is acceptable for fetal and neonatal blood.

5. All specimens must be kept at room temperature and packaged to protect from temperature extremes (heat and cold). **The specimen should be shipped at room temperature (DO NOT FREEZE, DO NOT SHIP DIRECTLY ON ICE)** and delivered to the lab as soon as possible.
6. Each collection container with the sample should be clearly labeled with the patient's name and identification number and packed in a biohazard plastic zip lock bag. Specimens should be accompanied by a completed request form, including details of clinical history/relevant clinical information, gestation, diagnosis, specimen type, requesting physician's name, contact phone number.
7. Please contact Ms Sun Xiaoli if there are any queries.

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