



Clinical Process Instruction Manual

Pre-Operative and Intra-Operative Biopsies

Policy:

Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) staff or designates help facilitate organ biopsies of donor organs during the organ offering and organ retrieval processes.

If a pre-operative organ biopsy is requested by the transplant program for the purposes of assessing organ suitability of an offered organ, the Organ and Tissue Donation Coordinator (OTDC) or Clinical Responder (CR) are responsible for ensuring the request is facilitated. A hardcopy of biopsy results will be sent to the Provincial Resource Centre (PRC) once available, and added to the donor chart. The Pathology department may also have directly contacted the OTDC or CR with verbal biopsy results. Hard copies of biopsy results are routinely forwarded to the Surgeon who requested the biopsy, as well as the other transplant programs that have been offered an organ from the donor.

If an organ biopsy is requested by the transplant program in the donor operating room (OR), the Clinical Services Coordinator (CSC) and Surgical Recovery Coordinator (SRC) or designate are responsible for ensuring the request is facilitated. A hardcopy of biopsy results will be sent to the Provincial Resource Centre (PRC) once available, and added to the donor chart. The Pathology department may also have directly contacted the transplant program/surgeon with verbal biopsy results, but hard copies of biopsy results are routinely forwarded to the Surgeon who requested the biopsy in any event.

Requirements for biopsy requests (i.e. preparation and packaging, type of biopsy, where the biopsy is to be processed) will be confirmed at the time of the request by the CSC, documented in the donor chart, and relayed to the coordinator fulfilling the request. Transplant programs may request that the biopsy be sent to their transplant program Surgical Pathology Department to be processed by a pathologist that specializes in a specific organ. Generally, STAT turnarounds for liver biopsies are 30 minutes and kidney biopsies are 8 hours. Non-STAT biopsies may take up to 1 week for receipt of results.

For all types of biopsies other than organ biopsies, the OTDC or CR will communicate the request for the biopsy, what is required to be biopsied, and the reason for the biopsy to the Pathology Department at the donor hospital. In consultation with the Pathologist at the donor hospital, the OTDC or CR will confirm the type of biopsy needed, and how the biopsy sample should be prepared and packaged. The Pathology department may directly contact the OTDC or CR with verbal biopsy results. Hard copies of biopsy results are routinely forwarded to the physician who requested the biopsy, in addition to any transplant program that have been offered an organ from the donor. A hard copy of biopsy results will be uploaded to the donor chart and provided to the transplant hospitals, as required.



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Process:

Pre-Operative Organ Biopsies

1. During the organ offering process, if the transplant surgeon requires an organ biopsy to be completed pre-operatively at the donor bedside, the CSC will relay the request to the OTDC or CR. The CSC will document the following in the donor chart:
 - Test Requested
 - Reason for Request
 - Physician Making Request
 - Intended Recipient
 - Testing Details/Specifics
2. The OTDC will advise the Most Responsible Physician (MRP) of the request for bedside biopsy.
3. If there are any concerns from a physician at the donor hospital related to sample collection or reading the sample, a physician to physician conversation may be facilitated with the transplant surgeon. If the hospital is unable to complete the request for a bedside biopsy, the OTDC or CR may escalate to the Donation Support Physician (DSP).

Intra-Operative Organ Biopsies

4. If the accepting transplant surgeon requests an organ biopsy to be arranged during the organ retrieval process, the CSC will confirm if the biopsy is a STAT or non-STAT request. STAT indicates that the physician will not start the recipient transplant surgery without biopsy results and non-STAT indicates that the transplant will proceed without the results. The CSC may record this on the *Reporting Form: Clinical Services Coordinator to Surgical Recovery Coordinator*.
5. The CSC informs the SRC or designate, relevant OTDC or CR, and the on-call Pathologist of the STAT biopsy required. The on-call Pathologist at the donor hospital may be required to come in and process the STAT biopsy.
6. In the donor OR, the SRC or designate informs the recovery surgeon that a wedge-size kidney or liver sample is required. The scrub nurse is requested to cut the biopsy sample and dampen it with saline, prior to placing it in a sterile specimen container.
7. The SRC or designate obtains the sterile container with the organ biopsy sample from the scrub nurse. The SRC or designate ensures that the container is properly secured.
8. The SRC or designate attaches a specimen label as applicable to the container and records the TGLN identification number on the label.



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9. The SRC or designate places the labelled container into a specimen bag with a requisition form, if required.
10. The SRC or designate packages the specimen obtained into the container within the specimen bag.

Delivery of Biopsy Samples

11. Prior to the completion of surgical recovery, the transplant surgeon may request that a STAT biopsy sample be sent to the Transplant programs Surgical Pathology Department. To ensure timely and accurate delivery of the biopsy sample, the sample must be accompanied by either the SRC (if 2 or more SRCs are present in the donor OR) or the surgical fellow or resident.
12. For biopsy samples that are non-STAT, the SRC or designate delivers the biopsy sample to the appropriate Surgical Pathology department at the donor hospital, or the surgical fellow(s) may take it with the organ to the Surgical Pathology department at the transplant hospital.
 - 12.1. When the SRC or designate is unavailable to deliver the biopsy to the appropriate Surgical Pathology department, the CSC arranges pick-up and delivery of the specimen by courier. Any concerns with delivery method should be escalated to the Manager on Call (MOC).
13. Upon delivery, the SRC or designate notifies the PRC that the biopsy sample has been delivered to the applicable Surgical Pathology Lab.

Obtaining Biopsy Results

14. For pre-operative biopsy samples processed at the donor hospital, the OTDC will be responsible for obtaining the biopsy results from the donor hospital Pathology Department. The OTDC will relay the results to the CSC to be shared with the transplant programs.
15. For intra-operative STAT biopsy samples processed at the donor hospital Surgical Pathology Department, the SRC is responsible for obtaining the verbal pathology results from the Pathologist.
16. For intra-operative biopsy samples processed at the transplant centre, the CSC will contact the transplant physician or designate to assist in providing a hardcopy of the biopsy report, as these samples are typically processed under the recipients Medical Record Number (MRN).



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Records:

- *No records.*

References:

- *No references.*