

Submitting Histological Samples for Infectious Diseases

It is well known that fixed tissue cannot be used for culturing bacteria or fungi. What is less commonly known is that formalin fixed tissues are not ideal for PCR testing due to cross linking between DNA and protein. When submitting samples for histology consider saving some fresh tissue for culture or PCR testing. This allows additional confirmatory testing to be done when the histology points to an unexpected viral, bacterial or fungal aetiology.

Tests such as TSE testing require the brain to remain intact and do not allow for collection of fresh and fixed tissues. This may be the case for other neurologic diseases. If you have any questions about central nervous system disease, we suggest discussing the case with one of our friendly Anatomic Pathologists.

