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Jersey Shore University Medical Center
Laboratory
Neptune, New Jersey 07753**

SUBJECT: PARAFFIN MICROTOMY	TITLE: PARAFFIN MICROTOMY
EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/2013	SECTION: HISTOLOGY
APPROVED:	POSITION RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW: Laboratory Director or Designee

PARAFFIN MICROTOMY

Principle: To consistently produce sectioned thickness of paraffin embedded tissue for various tissue types and procedures.

Procedure:

1. Assess type of tissue.
2. Check microtome settings and adjust appropriately depending on tissue or procedure. Use guideline from table (below).
3. Shave block to remove paraffin and expose tissue.
4. Gently rotate microtome to produce a “ribbon.”
5. Use “hot” & “cold” technique if necessary.
6. Place “ribbon” on the waterbath.
7. Pick up “ribbon” with slide (no holes and/or folds).
8. Take block and copy accession number on slide/s.

Tissue/Procedure	Thickness
Routine Paraffin	4 to5 microns
Biopsies (Small)	4 to5 microns
Bone Marrow (clot)	2 to3 microns
Bone Marrow biopsy	4 to 5 microns
Amyloid Stain	6 to12 microns
Lymph Node	3 to 4 microns
IHC Stain	3 to 4 microns (use positively charged slides)
Special Stains (Fe, Retic, Tric, Mucin, GMS)	4 to 5 microns
Frozen Sections	4 to 6 microns
Femoral Heads	5 to 6 microns

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