###### Purpose

To provide a procedure for the dissection of an excisional breast biopsy (without orientation).

1. **Principle**

To take histologic sections to demonstrate any possible pathologic process present so that a diagnosis can be made microscopically by a Pathologist.

###### Equipment

1. Ruler
2. Forceps
3. Scalpel
4. Scissors
5. Large Knife
6. **Safety**
7. **PPE** should be worn.
8. **FORMALIN** is a known carcinogen.
9. **Supplies and Reagents**
10. **10% NEUTRAL BUFFERED FORMALIN** (pH range 6.9 – 7.2)
11. Black Ink
12. White Distilled Vinegar
13. **Quality Control**

All remaining tissue should be retained.

1. **Limitations/ Notes**

The following may influence the validity of test results:

1. The specimen should be fixed in formalin for a minimum of 6 ½ hours.
2. **Procedure**
3. Measure the specimen (3 dimensions – cm.)
4. Calculate the water displacement (in cc.) of the specimen using a graduated cylinder.
5. If present, describe any attached skin including scars and/or lesions and provide a representative section.
6. Ink the external surfaces black. May be already inked and bisected at triage.
7. Apply vinegar to act as a mordant for the ink.
8. Serially section the specimen perpendicular to its long axis.
9. Inspect the cut surfaces for any masses, lesions, or areas of abnormality.
10. If grossly present, describe the pathology that is identified (size, shape, color, & consistency).
11. Document the relationship between the pathologic area and the closest margin.
12. If more than one mass, lesion, or area of abnormality is present, describe and measure the relationship.
13. Describe the uninvolved cut surfaces (% fibrous tissue vs. % adipose tissue).
14. Submit sections as follow:
15. Small - submit entirely if it can be submitted in 6-10 cassettes.
16. Large - 10 blocks are recommended (focus on non-fatty tissue) including section of gross abnormality or fibrous tissue to closest margin.
17. If initial slides show an abnormality/neoplasm, submit more cassettes per pathologist’s discretion.
18. If fibroadenoma suspected or grossly consistent with, submit entirely in 5 cassettes or submit 1 block per cm.
19. If not submitting the entire specimen, include a diagram.
20. Specify in the dictation which cassettes contain the pathology.
21. Include in the dictation the cold ischemic time and approximate hours of fixation. This is calculated from the time bisected at triage or time sectioned.
22. Load on the appropriate (for fatty breast tissue) processor. Note: the specimen must fix for a minimum of 6 ½ hours.

1. **References**

Hruban RH, Westra, WH, Phelps, PH, & Isacson, C: Surgical Pathology Dissection An Illustrated Guide, New York, NY, Springer-Verlag Inc., 1996.

Lester, SC: Manual of Surgical Pathology, New York, NY, Churchill

Livingstone, 2001.

1. **Related Documents**

Breast Grossing Standardization RA.SP.PR.GR.BT.09

1. **Authorized Reviewers**
2. Medical Director, Anatomic Pathology
3. Chief, Surgical Pathology

##### Document Control

##### Location of Master: Master electronic file stored on the Beaumont Laboratory server under

S:\ AP\_Grossing\_Manual

**Number of Controlled Copies posted for educational purposes: 0**

**Number of circulating Controlled Copies: 1**

**Location of circulating Controlled Copies: Master Grossing Manual** located in Surgical Pathology

##### Document History

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| Signature | Date | **Revision #** |  | **Related Documents****Reviewed/****Updated** |
| Prepared by: *Anne Tranchida, PA(ASCP)* | 7/31/2007 | **r00** |  |  |
| Approved by: *Ali-Reza Armin, MD* | 12/5/2007 | **r00** |  |  |
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| **Reviewed by: (Signature)** | **Date** | **Revision #** | **Modification** | **Related Documents****Reviewed/****Updated** |
| *Anne R. Tranchida,PA(ASCP)* | 10/20/2009 | **r00** |  |  |
| *Ali-Reza Armin,MD* | 10/20/2011 | **r00** |  |  |
| *Ali-Reza Armin,MD* | 04/02/2013 | **r00** |  |  |
| *Mitual B. Amin,MD* | 02/14/2015 | **r00** |  |  |
| *Zhenhong H. Qu, MD* | 03/12/2015 | **r00** |  |  |
| *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 10/27/2017 | **r00** |  |  |
| Revised by: *Heather Genson, HTL(ASCP)CMPACM* | 12/04/2015 | **r01** | Include cold ischemic time, time place in formalin, and hours of fixation. And include a diagram if not entirely submitted |  |
| Approved by: *Zhenhong H. Qu, MD* | 12/7/2015 | **r01** |  |  |
| Revised by: *Heather Genson, HTL(ASCP)CMPACM* | 3/22/2019 | **r02** | Updated to include breast grossing standardization |  |
| Approved by: *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 3/22/2019 | **r02** |  |  |
| *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 10/22/2019 | **r02** |  |  |
| *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 10/20/2021 | **r02** |  |  |
| *Jawwad Arshad, MD* | 3/20/2023 | **r02** |  |  |
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