###### Purpose

To provide a procedure for the gross dissection of a femoral head for a metastatic condition.

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. Stryker Saw or Table Saw
7. **Safety**
8. **PPE** should be worn.
9. **FORMALIN** is a known carcinogen.
10. **DECALCIFICATION SOLUTION** is a strong acid.
11. **Supplies and Reagents**
12. **10% NEUTRAL BUFFERED FORMALIN** (pH range 6.9 – 7.2)
13. **DECALCIFYING SOLUTION**
14. **MOL-DECALCIFIER** (Unbuffered 10% EDTA decalcification solution for morphology and molecular studies)
15. **Quality Control**

All remaining tissue should be retained in formalin.

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 before being decalcified.
2. Prolonged decalcification will affect the histologic detail and the preservation of some nuclear antigens.
3. **Procedure**
4. Measure the femoral head and the femoral neck (3 dimensions – cm.). If the specimen has been fractured by the metastatic process, the specimen may be received in two pieces.
5. Describe and measure any attached soft tissue (3 dimensions – cm.).
6. If present, locate, measure (3 dimensions – cm.), and describe the fracture site.
7. Describe the articular cartilage (texture).
8. Using the Stryker Saw or a Table Saw, serially section the femoral head and neck.
9. Identify the metastatic process and dictate, the size (3 dimensions – cm.), shape, color, consistency and portion of the specimen that is involved.
10. If a fracture site is present, describe the relationship between the fracture site and the metastatic process.
11. Describe the cancellous bone and any abnormalities that are present away from the metastatic process.
12. Measure the thickness of the articular cartilage (cm.).
13. If soft tissue is attached to the femoral head, submit a section.
14. Submit 2-3 sections of the metastatic process. If necessary, decalcify the sections.
15. If the tumor is boney, submit a single 1x1 cm section, no more than 1 mm thick in Mol-Decal (after a minimum of 6 ½ hours fixation in formalin) and give to histology to be Mol-decalcified.
16. If a fracture site is present, submit 1-2 sections of the fracture site after decalcification.
17. Submit a representative section of the articular cartilage and adjacent cancellous bone after decalcification.
18. If another pathologic process is identified, provide 2-3 representative sections after decalcification.
19. Include in the dictation which cassettes are decalcified, specifying which cassettes are Mol-Decal vs. Decal.
20. **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**

RA.HI.PR.SP.005- Molecular Decalcification

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)* | 09/09/2007 | **r00** |  |  |
| Approved by: *Ali-Reza Armin, MD* | 11/28/2007 | **r00** |  |  |
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| *Ali-Reza Armin, MD* | 12/10/2008 | **r00** |  |  |
| *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* | 12/13/2017 | **r01** | Added steps for Mol-Decal |  |
| Approved by: *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 12/20/2017 | **r01** |  |  |
| *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 10/22/2019 | **r01** |  |  |
| *Kurt Bernacki, MD* | 10/20/2021 | **r01** |  |  |
| Revised by: Heather Genson, HTL(ASCP)CMPACM | 01/14/2022 | **r02** | Removed specific time in Mol-Decal |  |
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| *M. Jawwad Arshad, MD* | 3/20/2023 | **r02** |  |  |
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