

UW Medicine - Pathology

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Prion / CJD Control Plan Policy

Adopted Date: 09/16/02 Revision Date: 05/20/11

PURPOSE

To ensure that proper handling of specimens suspected of prion/CJD is followed by all pathology personnel responsible for handling specimens.

SCOPE

All staff, faculty and residents/fellows responsible for handling specimen that are suspected of prion/CJD.

POLICY

All patients undergoing a brain biopsy for other than a known non-prion lesion will be treated according to the Prion/CJD Control Plan procedure in order to minimize the risk of transmitting prion disease to other patients or healthcare workers, and to safely dispose of supplies and equipment used for these patients. Precautions are to be used for the specimens from all patients with known or suspected prion disease, including one or more of the following:

- Rapidly progressing dementia
- Possible Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker Syndrome (GSS), or Fatal Familial Insomnia (FFI).
- Family history of CJD, GSS, or FFI.
- Recipients of human pituitary hormone, corneal transplants or dura mater grafts.
- Any brain biopsy patient without a specific lesion as the target of the biopsy.

Infectivity Levels:

High Infectivity Tissue: Brain, dura mater, spinal cord and cornea.

Medium Infectivity Tissue: Cerebrospinal fluid, liver, lymph nodes, lung, kidney and spleen.

Low / No Infectivity Tissue or Fluid: Heart, skeletal muscle, thyroid gland, adrenal glands, intestine, peripheral nerves, bone marrow, whole blood, leukocytes, serum, adipose tissue, prostate, testis, semen, placenta, vaginal secretions, milk, tears, gingiva, nasal mucus, saliva, sputum, urine and feces.

Unless a clear non-prion disease diagnosis is established, these patients will be considered as potentially having prion disease.

All suspected prion / CJD cases procured at UWMC are to be sent directly to HMC for processing.

UWMC Pathology Chief of Service:
(Signature and Date)

 5/24/13

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HMC Pathology Chief of Service:
(Signature and Date)

 5/24/13

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