**UW Medicine - Pathology**

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Bone Marrow Decalcification Procedure

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| Adopted Date:05/19/09  Review Date: 01/13/11  Revision Date: 03/30/11 |

PURPOSE

A bone marrow biopsy is received in 10% buffered formalin. This biopsy needs to undergo decalcification before histologic processing.

PROCEDURE

Fixative:

10% buffered formalin (Formalin), Rapid Decalcifier - RDO (contains hydrochloric acid).

Procedure:

1. Bone marrow biopsies are received in 10% buffered formalin. Biopsies are placed in the bone marrow location by Hematopathology and time stamped when received. Biopsies must formalin fix for a minimum of one (1) hour. Biopsies are accepted for same day decalcification until 3:30pm. Typical container size is 16 oz or larger.
2. Dictate how many pieces are received and the aggregate length, along with the assigned number, patient ID, and the part being dictated. Also, dictate that the biopsy will be submitted for decalcification.
3. Wrap biopsy in tissue paper and place in the corresponding labeled cassette.
4. Place the cassette in RDO decalcifying solution and set a timer for 40 minutes. The timer is to stay with the grosser until the time is up.
5. Place cassettes in grossing station Tupperware formalin filled container.
6. Change RDO weekly (or as needed).

Written By: Director Approval:

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