

UAB Shin J. Oh Muscle and Nerve Histopathology Laboratory
1720 7th Ave. S.
Sparks Center Room 427
Birmingham, AL 35233
(205)934-2127

Dr. Eroboghene E. Ubogu, Laboratory Director

General Information for Referring Physicians and Laboratories

Diagnostic Services: This laboratory in conjunction with Neuromuscular Disease section of the UAB Department of Neurology provides the following diagnostic services:

- Muscle, nerve, or skin biopsy surgery for patients
- Histological and histochemical preparation and interpretation of frozen, formalin-fixed and thick semi thin sections of tissue
- Consultation on prepared slides or blocks sent from outside laboratories

Neurological consultation and electrodiagnostic testing of all kinds are available at adjacent UAB Electrodiagnostic Laboratory, as well as at the nearby Kirklin Clinic.

Muscle and nerve biopsies are frequently ordered as part of the diagnostic work-up for the following diseases:

- ALS and other spinal muscular atrophies
- Diseases of the peripheral nerves
- Metabolic diseases of the muscle – Muscular Dystrophies
- Myopathies – Myositis – Myotonias – Vasculitis

Reporting: Final reports are generated in 7 – 14 days from receipt of specimen.

Billing: It is our policy to bill the referring laboratory for all biopsy consultations when the patient does not come to UAB. It shall be the responsibility of the sending laboratory/hospital/physician's office to pay us for the services provided, and then seek reimbursement from the patient or his/her insurance. Biopsy specimens are accepted for processing and interpretation with this understanding. Our office will be glad to provide CPT codes and other information to the sending facility upon request.

Instructions for Preparation and Shipment of Specimens

- Specimen size of muscle should be approximately 1 – 2 cm³; nerve tissue should be at least 3 cm long.

For Muscle or Nerve Tissue to be delivered same day of biopsy:

- Wrap specimen in saline dampened gauze; place in biohazard bag or container labeled with patient name and date of birth. Place on cool wet ice or cool packs.
- Biopsies delivered same day must be received by the lab no later than 4 p.m. (Monday – Friday, except holidays).
- All specimen container and requisition must match in order to be accepted by the lab.
- Contact our lab at (205)934-2127 so that we may track your specimen to ensure delivery.
- The time between biopsy surgery and delivery to lab should not exceed 4 – 6 hours. If this time requirement cannot be met, see the instructions for freezing specimen.

For Muscle or Nerve Tissue to be delivered overnight:

- Blot tissue with absorbent towel to extract excess moisture before snap freezing.
- Muscle: Snap freeze entire specimen using isopentane (approximately 25 ml) in a metal container cooled in liquid nitrogen for 10 – 15 seconds. Place in container on dry ice (5-7 pounds) and ship via FedEx Express First Overnight.
- Nerve: Cut a 1 cm piece from the central portion of the nerve and place in 4% glutaraldehyde. Send this packaged separately from the dry ice so as not to freeze. Snap freeze remaining specimen using the instructions for muscle listed above.
- All specimen container and requisition must match in order to be accepted by the lab.
- Contact our lab at (205)934-2127 so that we may track your specimen to ensure delivery.

Delivery Address:

UAB Shin J. Oh Muscle and Nerve Histopathology Laboratory

1720 7th Avenue South

Sparks Center 427

Birmingham, AL 35233

- Expect final report in 7 – 14 days
- Questions: Call the lab at (205)934-2127

Accession Number: MN-21-_____

UAB Shin J. Oh Muscle and Nerve Histopathology Laboratory
1720 7th Ave. S. SC 427
Birmingham, AL 35233
Phone: (205)934-2127
Fax: (205)975-4457

Name (Last)	(First)	Age	Sex	Date of Birth	Social Security Number (if available)
Submitting Physician Name		Submitting Facility & Facility to be billed			
Submitting Physician Contact Phone/Beeper Number		Name, address, phone & fax number of physicians who should receive copies of the biopsy report			
Specific Muscle or Nerve Biopsied					
Clinical Impression/Indications					
Clinical History/Lab Data/Serological Data					

****NOTE:** It is imperative that you contact our lab in advance to sending specimens. We can be reached at the above number. Specimens must arrive between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday – Friday, except holidays. The lab is closed weekends.