

ANP.24300 Special Handling of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)**Phase II**

The laboratory handles tissues from cases of suspected transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), using procedures that minimize the risk of transmission.

NOTE: Specialized handling instructions and an appropriate process for intra-laboratory communication must be addressed in the written procedure.

Neuropathology tissues from suspected cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease should be treated with formic acid. Paraffin blocks and slides prepared from formic-acid-treated tissue may be handled routinely.

If tissue has not been treated with formic acid, it must be hand-processed and treated as containing potentially transmissible prions. Double gloves must be worn at all times when handling such tissue. All solutions, including water washes, must be collected and treated with equal volumes of fresh undiluted household bleach for 60 minutes before disposal. Disposables, glassware, tools, etc. must be handled according to the procedures employed in the autopsy room described elsewhere in this checklist. All scraps of paraffin and unused sections should be collected on a disposable sheet. The microtome may be wiped with bleach or NaOH solution. No special precautions are needed in handling intact glass slides once they have been coverslipped. Broken slides should be decontaminated and discarded. Paraffin blocks should be stored in a bag or box and labeled as infectious. Alternatively, the laboratory may reseal the cut surface of the blocks with paraffin. Additional information may be found in the Autopsy section of this checklist.

REFERENCES

- 1) Brown W, *et al.* A simple and effective method for inactivating virus activity in formalin-fixed tissue samples from patients with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. *Neurology*. 1990;40:887-890
- 2) Brown P. Guidelines for high risk autopsy cases: special precautions for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. In: Hutchins G, ed. *Autopsy performance and reporting*. Northfield, IL: College of American Pathologists, 1990:68-74
- 3) Greenblatt, M. Q&A. Northfield, IL: College of American Pathologists, CAP Today 1993(March);7(3):69-70
- 4) Crain BJ. Safety tips for anatomic studies of possible CJD. Northfield, IL: College of American Pathologists, *CAP Today*. 1996(Jan);10(1):56
- 5) Rank JP. How can histotechnologists protect themselves from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. *Lab Med*. 1999;30:305
- 6) Nixon RR. Prions and prion diseases. *Lab Med*. 1999;30:335-338
- 7) Collins KA, ed. *Autopsy Performance and Reporting*. 3rd ed. Northfield, IL: CAP Press: 2017.

ANP.27150 Glass Slide/Block Disposal**Phase I**

The laboratory safely disposes of used glass slides and paraffin blocks.

NOTE: The laboratory must follow CAP retention requirements for slides and blocks (refer to checklist requirement in the Surgical Pathology Reports section of this checklist).

REFERENCES

- 1) Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). *Clinical Laboratory Waste Management; Approved Guideline—Third Edition*. CLSI document GP05-A3 (ISBN 1-56238-744-8). CLSI, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898, USA 2011.
- 2) Title 45, CFR; parts 160, 162, And 164, Health Insurance Reform: Security Standards; Final Rule, Federal Register, Published Feb. 20, 2003. [Health Insurance Reform](#).

NOTE: The following four requirements apply to microwave devices used in the histology laboratory.

ANP.27170 Microwave Usage**Phase I**

Microwave devices are used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

ANP.28290 Microwave Monitoring**Phase I**

Microwave devices are monitored for reproducibility at least annually.

NOTE: "Reproducibility" is defined as consistency in diagnostic quality obtained from microwave equipment and procedures. For some devices, reproducibility may be evaluated by monitoring