

National Physicians Cooperative of the Oncofertility Consortium[®]

Section 8. Ovarian Tissue Transport: Logistics

Background

1. Ovarian tissue that is to be frozen for fertility preservation can be transported some distance to a lab provided the tissue is handled properly.
2. To minimize damage to the tissue and the oocytes within, it must be kept **at COLD (0-5°C)** from the time of removal from the patient through the processing procedures.
3. Sterile technique must be used in obtaining the tissue.
4. If pathology is taking a sample of the tissue, they must maintain the sterility of the sample.

Sample Receipt, Surgical Technique, and Preparation:

1. **Technical Note and Tips:** The easiest way to receive and transport the tissue from the operating room to the lab for processing is to use a **TALL INSULATED COFFEE MUG or other insulated container (see attached Figure 1)**.
 - Grocery stores, drug stores, and coffee shops carry a wide variety of tall insulated coffee mugs or insulated containers with tight lids. Choose a container that can accommodate a specimen container wrapped in a one or more cold packs (see attached Figure 1).
 - This container should be labeled with a biohazard label and should have the name and pager number of the person picking up the tissue.
 - Fill a sterile specimen container or 50 ml conical centrifuge tube approximately half way with holding media; close tightly. Label the container with patient information or hospital label and place in transport container.
 - This container can taken to the operating room on the day of surgery and given to the surgeon. **NOTE:** If surgery is delayed, be sure that the entire container is protected from temperature extremes and contents remain at **COLD (0-5°C), but not FROZEN**.
 - After pathology has taken their portion (if indicated, see Clinical Tips, Section 8c), the surgeon should place the tissue into the specimen container containing media and place it in the insulated travel container.
 - If pathology is removing a portion of the tissue, they must maintain sample sterility and it should be done rapidly. Once the ovary is out, it should be cooled as quickly as possible (by placing in media) to avoid tissue necrosis.
 - The person picking up the tissue can then be paged or the container can be transported to the lab for processing (no need to have someone waiting in the OR).
 - If infectious disease testing is drawn intraoperatively, the purple top tube for plasma archive/banking can be placed in this container to ensure that the plasma sample stays with the ovarian tissue sample
2. **Initiate sample processing within 1 hour of tissue removal.**

Figure 1. Ovarian Tissue Transport: Suggested Method

