

## **Information for Patients Requesting the Return of Formalin Fixed Tissue Samples**

As you have requested the return of your specimen, there are a few facts we need to make you aware of:

- 1. To enable optimal pathological examination your specimen was treated with a preservative chemical (10% BUFFERED FORMALIN).**
- 2. Formalin is a known carcinogen (cancer causing) and is HIGHLY TOXIC.**
- 3. After completing the pathological examination and issuing a report, your specimen was thoroughly washed in water to remove excess formalin.**
- 4. Your specimen was then placed into absolute alcohol, which is a short term, less toxic fixative.**

However:

- 1. Your specimen is NOT a suitable food for humans or animals.**
- 2. Your specimen must still be handled with extreme care; we advise that disposable latex gloves be worn if you intend to handle the specimen. After handling any tissue samples, dispose of the gloves immediately in the garbage and wash your hands with plenty of soap and water and dry carefully with a disposable paper towel.**
- 3. If you wish to bury your specimen, it must be placed in a hole at least 1 metre deep. The tissue must not be buried on the fence line, near public water ways, or in public areas such as parks. The tissue may be returned, if you wish, to the laboratory for disposal.**

**For further information please contact the Anatomical Pathology  
Laboratory Manager on 512 42874.**

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