

HARVARD BRAIN TISSUE RESOURCE CENTER

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Phone: 1-800-BRAIN BANK or (617) 855-2400 ♦ Fax: (617) 855-3199 ♦ E-mail: BTRC@mclean.harvard.edu
[1-800-272-4622] <http://www.brainbank.mclean.org>

1/2 FIXED & 1/2 FROZEN BRAIN TISSUE PROTOCOL

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. **PLEASE CALL THE BRAIN BANK AT 1-800-272-4622 BEFORE REMOVING THE BRAIN.**
 2. **PLEASE PLACE DECEDENT INTO MORTUARY REFRIGERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WITHIN 6 HOURS AFTER DEATH.**
 3. **DO NOT EMBALM THE DECEDENT UNTIL AFTER THE BRAIN HAS BEEN REMOVED.**
 4. **COMPLETE THE BRAIN REMOVAL AS SOON AFTER DEATH AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER DEATH.**
 5. **THE BRAIN BANK WILL SEND THE NECESSARY SHIPPING MATERIALS TO YOUR LOCATION.**
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TISSUE PREPARATION

1. Complete the PATHOLOGIST TIME RECORD SHEET provided.
 2. **CSF (Optional):** Before removing the brain from the skull, obtain a 5-10 ml sample of CSF from the lateral ventricles. Freeze the sample in one or two labeled plastic sample tubes.
 3. **Brain:** Remove the brain including brainstem and cerebellum, and record whole brain weight. Bisect brain into right and left halves by cutting in the midsagittal plane through the corpus callosum, midbrain, cerebellum, and brainstem.
 - **Fix 1/2 Brain** in 10% buffered formalin. Place the **FLAT, MEDIAL SURFACE SIDE DOWN** toward the bottom of the plastic bucket.
 - **Freeze 1/2 Brain** in a freezer. Cover the brain with plastic wrap or put into a ziplock bag and place into a freezer with the **FLAT, MEDIAL SURFACE SIDE DOWN** on a smooth flat surface.
 1. **Pituitary Gland (Optional):** After removing the brain, dissect out the intact pituitary gland, place it into a labeled, small plastic bag, and then place it into a freezer.
 2. Label all specimens clearly with the decedent's name.
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SHIPPING

3. **THE BRAIN BANK WILL SEND THE NECESSARY SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS & MATERIALS TO YOUR LOCATION.**
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**THANK YOU FOR CAREFULLY FOLLOWING THIS PREPARATION PROCEDURE.
YOUR GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING VALUABLE TISSUE FOR RESEARCH IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**