

## HARVARD BRAIN TISSUE RESOURCE CENTER

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[1-800-272-4622]

<http://www.brainbank.mclean.org>

## WHOLE FIXED 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 PROPER SHIPPING MATERIALS TO YOUR LOCATION.**
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### **TISSUE PREPARATION**

1. Complete the PATHOLOGIST TIME RECORD SHEET provided.
  2. **Brain:** Remove the brain including brainstem and cerebellum, and record weight.
    - Place whole brain into a plastic pail containing 10% buffered formalin.
    - Place dura matter, if available, into the formalin along with the brain.
  3. Secure lid firmly on the pail.
  4. Label specimen clearly with the decedent's name.
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### **SHIPPING**

5. **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.**