

HARVARD BRAIN TISSUE RESOURCE CENTER

T. Wilson Woo, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director; Sabina Berretta, M.D., Scientific Director
McLean Hospital ♦ 115 Mill Street ♦ Belmont, MA 02478

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>

WHOLE FIXED BRAIN & 1/4 CEREBELLUM FROZEN 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 whole brain weight. Cut and remove approximately 1/4 of the cerebellum before fixing brain.
 - **Place whole brain** into a plastic pail containing 10% buffered formalin.
 - Place dura matter, if available, into the formalin along with the brain.
 - **Freeze 1/4 Cerebellum** in a freezer. Cover the cerebellar specimen with plastic wrap or put it into a ziplock bag and place into a freezer with a **FLAT SURFACE SIDE DOWN** on a smooth flat surface.
 3. **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 the freezer.
 4. Label all specimens 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.**