TITLE: Maintenance of Viability in Fresh Tissue Samples Submitted for Pathology Testing: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 14 August 2008

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Is there evidence for the period of time fresh tissue samples can be left out of fixative before necrosis begins affecting pathology test results?

2. Is there evidence to support particular storage procedures for fresh tissue samples submitted for pathology testing?

3. What are the guidelines for the management of fresh tissue samples submitted for pathology testing?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and August 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, clinical trials, observational studies and guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.
The literature search identified five observational studies and two guidelines regarding fresh tissue samples submitted for pathology testing. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified. Additional articles of potential interest are included in the appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
No literature identified

**Randomized controlled trials**
No literature identified

**Observational studies**


**Guidelines and recommendations**


   See: Section 4.3 – Transport, Handling and Triage of Biopsy Material


   See: Chapter 2 – Surgical Handling, and Chapter 3 – Laboratory Handling
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review articles


Additional articles