

HISTOPATHOLOGY TURNAROUND TIMES

Description	Sample/ sample container	Turnaround time (working days)	Testing site
Cervical smear	Liquid-based cytology – PreservCyt vial	5-7 days	Referral Laboratory
*Cytology - ascitic fluid	Sterile container (no formalin)	2 days	In-house
*Cytology - pleural fluid	Sterile container (no formalin)	2 days	In-house
*Cytology - sputum	Sterile container (no formalin)	2 days	In-house
*Cytology - urine	Sterile container (no formalin); not an EMU	2 days	In-house
FNA	Air-dried and fixed slides	2 days	In-house
Frozen section	Sterile container (no formalin)	1 hour	In-house
Immunohistochemistry tests (e.g. ER, PR, Her-2)	Tissue block/ slide	2 days	In-house and Referral Laboratories
Molecular tests (e.g. FISH)	Tissue block/ slide	7-25 days	Referral Laboratories
Routine histology (case requiring extra fixation time e.g. WLE breast, colon)	Formal saline pot	5 days	In-house
Routine histology case (small biopsy samples, skins)	Formal saline pot	3 days	In-house

Urgent requests: We will try to accommodate urgent requests. Please contact the lab on Ext. 7045 to discuss.

** To ensure optimal specimen quality, please send fresh fluid cytology specimens to our laboratory at 116 Harley St. within an hour of collection. If this is not possible, the please refrigerate the specimen and send within 12 hours of collection.*