**Purpose**

To establish a procedure on how to prepare a nerve sample at time of biopsy for in house clinicians.

**Materials**

Glutaraldehyde vial (request this from pathology), small container with 10% formalin, and index card.

**Procedure**

1. **Whole Specimen:** The specimen should be 5 cm or longer. Gently separate the nerve from soft tissues: do not to let the nerve dry out or be flattened from vigorously moving a hemostat under the nerve. If not done carefully, the nerve specimen will be flat & dry, and no electron microscopy (EM) can be performed. Place a suture at the proximal or distal portion of the biopsy and transect the nerve beyond the suture. Then immediately place the nerve on a dry index card and by holding on to one end with forceps gently drag the nerve over the surface of the card so it will adhere to the card within seconds (see diagram). Avoid exposure to air for more than a few seconds. Immediately go to step 2, Specimen for EM.
2. **Specimen for EM:** Next, quickly cut the card around the attached nerve, divide it in two portions, and drop the first portion into the vial so it is immersed in glutaraldehyde fixative. This procedure should not take longer than a few seconds.
3. **Specimen for paraffin:** Drop the other portion of nerve on card immediately into the specimen jar so it is immersed in formalin fixative.

Bring both specimens to pathology with appropriate requisition including treating clinician contact’s information and pertinent clinical history.

**Flowchart**

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