**Purpose**

A normal adrenal gland measures 5 x 3 x 1 cm and weighs approximately 4 to 6 grams. The adrenal gland is composed of 2 main components: cortex and medulla.

On sectioning, the cortex has a distinctive bright orange-yellow color.  The medulla is a narrow, inner core, which has a pearly gray color. Most adrenal glands come with attached peri-adrenal adipose. Situated between the peri-adrenal adipose and cortex is the adrenal capsule.

**Procedure**

* Measure and weigh specimen **after** trimming off surrounding fat.
* Note any external abnormalities or defects and photograph.
* Ink entire external surface. Try to use different color ink to mark specific defects.
* Serially section the specimen along the long axis at 2-4 mm intervals.
* Photograph cut surfaces showing gross abnormalities.
* Measure mass(s) in 3 dimensions and describe location (cortex or medulla).
* Describe relationship of mass to capsule (abutting, invading through, etc.). If pertinent, relationship to peri-adrenal adipose or vasculature.
* Describe cut surfaces of mass including hemorrhage or necrosis.
* Describe uninvolved adrenal parenchyma, peri-adrenal adipose or any other findings.

**Note:**  Always submit a portion of adrenal tumors to tissue procurement.

**Sections for Histology**

Submitt representative sections of tumor to normal gland and tumor to capsule (apporximately 1 cassette per cm).

**Pheochromocytoma:**  Approximately 5-6 sections, including one of interface of neoplasm with normal gland.

If **adrenal medullary hyperplasia**is suspected, e.g., MEN 2a, 2b or Von Hippel Lindau, submit medulla in toto.

**Sample Dictation**

“Left Adrenal Gland”, received in a small container filled with formalin is a 24.0 gm, 5.0 x 4.0 x 3.0 cm adrenalectomy specimen with attached peri-adipose tissue. Photographs are taken for future reference.

The gland is remarkable for a 2.0 x 1.0 x 0.5 cm well circumscribed, cortical mass. The mass abuts the capsule, however does not invade through it. The mass contains orange-yellow, solid and homogenous cut surfaces.

The remaining adrenal parenchyma and peri-adrenal adipose are unremarkable.

Inking Code: adrenal capsule=blue

**Cassette Summary:**

A1-A2. Cortical mass (ss).

A3. Cortical mass to uninvolved adrenal parenchyma (ss).