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## **Tissue Medical Devices Exceptions List**

Effective Date: June 2009

Review/Revision History: 12/07, 6/09, 2/13

I. This is the list of specimens that may be excluded from routine submission to Surgical Pathology.

II. The following specimens may be submitted to Surgical Pathology for gross examination without microscopic examination (gross only).

1. Foreign bodies removed at surgery (prostheses/implants)
2. Endoscopically removed foreign bodies
3. Artificial heart valves (mechanical)
4. Varicose veins
5. Traumatic amputation

III. Regardless of exceptions and/or exemptions, gross and microscopic examinations will be performed whenever the attending physician requests it, or at the discretion of the pathologist when such examinations are indicated by the clinical history. IV. This exemption list specifically does not prohibit tissues being removed solely for research purposes where prior patient consent and IRB review, including pathology consent, are required.

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V. Documentation of the removal and disposition of specimens and devices not sent to Pathology is the responsibility of the attending physician and Department/Service removing such specimens.

**Duke University Hospital  
Department of Pathology**

**Surgical Pathology Tissue and Medical Devices Exceptions List  
and  
List of Specimens Exempt from Microscopic Examination**

I. The following specimens may be excluded from routine submission to Surgical Pathology.

A. General Surgery/Plastic Surgery

1. Arthropods (lice, crabs, etc.)
2. Bezoars
3. Calculi (renal, ureteral, bladder)
4. Clinically normal tissue removed during cosmetic procedures (e.g., blepharoplasty and with the exception of mammoplasty)
5. Debridement for recent trauma
6. Debridement from decubitus ulcer
7. Fat contents from liposuction
8. Fecaliths
9. Foreign bodies that are medicolegal evidence (e.g., bullets) given directly to law enforcement personnel
10. Medical devices not contributing to patient illness, injury or death (e.g., gastrostomy tubes, stents, sutures)
11. Panniculectomy tissue
12. Portion of rib removed only to enhance operative exposure, provided patient does not have a history of malignancy
13. Scars from recent burns and trauma or old scars from non-neoplasm surgery
14. Subcutaneous tissue, excess removed incidental to surgical approach
15. Tissue expander implants
16. Tissue from cosmetic repair from the nose, ear and face
17. Tissue from extensive soft tissue and bony trauma
18. Toenails & fingernails that are grossly unremarkable
19. Thymus tissue, removed only to enhance operative exposure, provided the patient does not have a history or suspicion of malignancy
20. Atrial appendage tissue, excess removed incidental to surgical approach
21. Mohs surgery specimen for which the tissue diagnosis has been previously established by a pathologist
22. Debrided tissue for which the tissue diagnosis has been previously established by a pathologist and the base is to be subsequently treated with electrofulguration or liquid nitrogen treatment.

B. Neurosurgery

- Ruptured disks/ osteoarthritic bone removed during spinal surgery.

C. Obstetrics & Gynecology

1. Intrauterine contraceptive devices, without attached soft tissue
2. Placentas delivered by cesarean section that appear normal at time of delivery
3. Placentas from routine and uncomplicated pregnancies and deliveries that appear normal at the time of delivery (e.g., do not meet criteria for examination)
4. Vaginal foreign bodies
5. Vaginal mucosa and vulvar skin (perineal body) removed during repair of rectocele and cystocele

D. Ophthalmology

1. Chalazion, unless recurrent
2. Extraocular muscle and tendon tissue removed during strabismus surgery
3. Iris removed at time of peripheral iridectomy
4. Lens cataracts, not otherwise specified
5. Lens cataracts removed by phacoemulsification
6. Ophthalmic plastic surgical tissues, without underlying malignant or systemic disease
7. Scleral tissue removed at time of trabeculectomy
8. Subretinal/choroidal membranes
9. Explanted devices and materials, eg, explanted intraocular lenses, buckles, valves,
10. Vitreous fluid/tissue without suspicion of neoplasia
11. Prosthetic intraocular lenses

E. Oral Surgery

1. Bone associated with extracted tooth
2. Dental appliances
3. Dental restorations
4. Hardware (arch bars, wire, bone plates, screws, etc.)
5. Impacted teeth
6. Mobile primary teeth
7. Teeth, not otherwise specified
8. Teeth removed for dental caries, periodontal disease
9. Teeth when there is no attached soft tissue
10. Temporomandibular joint

F. Orthopedics

1. Bone donated to the bone bank
2. Bone from osteotomies
3. Bone segments removed as part of corrective or reconstructive orthopedic procedures (e.g., rotator

- 4. cuff repair, synostosis repair, spinal fusion)  
Bone spurs, in addition to bunions

- 5. Bunions
- 6. Orthopedic appliances (hardware) and other radiopaque mechanical devices removed at surgery
- 7. Patellar shavings
- 8. Synovium from reconstruction (e.g., anterior cruciate ligament)
- 9. Tendon
- 10. Toes removed for functional deformity (e.g., hammer toe, mallet and claw toes)
- 11. Tissues excised as part of routine procedures for restoration or repair of joint diseases, or reconstruction of joint alignment or functional anatomy following surgery, e.g. partial or complete meniscus and/or attachments, tendon and/or attachments, ligaments and/or attachments, articular cartilage, bone, synovial tissues, intervertebral disc tissues. Grossly normal tissues must not have any concerns or evidence related to neoplasia, inflammatory/autoimmune disease, or infection.

**G. Otolaryngology**

- 1. Cartilage or bone removed during septoplasty, rhinoplasty or septorhinoplasty
- 2. Middle ear (myringotomy) tubes
- 3. Otologic reconstructive or other appliances removed at surgery
- 4. Middle ear ossicles

**H. Pediatrics**

- 1. Foreskin from circumcision of newborn or any child
- 2. Supernumerary (accessory) digits

**I. Urology**

- 1. Foreskin from elective circumcision (adult)
- 2. Penile implant

**J. Vascular Surgery**

- 1. Intravascular catheters
- 2. Mammary artery/vein, excess from cardiac or peripheral vascular bypass
- 3. Pacemaker devices
- 4. Saphenous vein segments harvested for coronary artery bypass
- 5. Venous segment excess harvested for grafting, not otherwise specified

**K. Thoracic surgery**

- Ribs incidentally removed to facilitate exposure and the operation

**L. Miscellaneous**

- Therapeutic radioactive sources

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