

Collection and Storage of Neurofibroma Tissue (Plexiform/Cutaneous/Intradermal/Spinal) for NF1-Related Genetic Studies (Schwann cell culture)

1. Shipping Medium and Container:

- **Request the shipping medium and container** from the lab at least **1 week prior to surgery** by emailing **medgenomics@uabmc.edu**.
- The lab will send the appropriate **medium** and **specimen package** necessary for biopsy collection.
- The medium must be **refrigerated until surgery**. On the morning of surgery, bring the medium to **room temperature**.
- If surgery is rescheduled after the medium has been shipped, contact the lab for fresh media, as it expires within **1-2 weeks**.

2. Tumor Biopsy Collection:

- **Preferred method: Shave** excision for **cutaneous neurofibromas**.
- For other types of tumors, **surgical removal** is required.
- Tumor biopsy should be at least **3 mm in diameter and thickness**.
- Immediately place the biopsy in the sterile pre-incubation transportation medium:
DMEM + 10% FCS + Peni/Strepto (1x) + 2μM Forskolin.
- Clearly label the **location of the biopsy** on the specimen container and **phenotypic checklist**.

3. Specimen Sealing and Labeling:

- Use **Parafilm squares** (provided in the collection kit) to seal the medium vials after placing the biopsy sample inside.
- Ensure that vials are **leak-proof** and properly labeled with the **patient's name, DOB, and/or medical record number**.

4. Whole Blood Submission (If Applicable):

- If **blood has never been tested**, submit **10 ml of whole blood** collected in **EDTA (purple top) tubes**.

5. Shipment of Tumor Tissue:

- Keep tumor tissue **at room temperature** at all times.
- Tumor tissue is needed for **Schwann cell culture**; therefore, **living, viable cells are required**.
- Send the tumor tissue to the **Medical Genomics Laboratory** via **priority service shipment** (next-day delivery).
- ALWAYS Contact the lab at **medgenomics@uabmc.edu** or **205-934-5562** prior to shipment with the **tracking number** and **shipment company**. Include a **customs form** if applicable.

6. Shipping Address:

UAB Medical Genomics Laboratory
Attn. Dr. Yunjia Chen
720 20th St South
Kaul Human Genetics Building Ste 330
Birmingham, AL 35233-2032