

UConn HEALTH

Dermatopathology Service

BIOPSY SITE GUIDELINES FOR DIRECT IMMUNOFLOUORESCENCE STUDIES

TAKING THE BIOPSY:

- A 4-mm punch biopsy is preferable. A deep shave biopsy may also be processed
- Ensure biopsy is not adherent to vial lid or side and is fully immersed in DIF fixative
- Paired specimens (accompanying tissue in formalin fixative for H&E staining) will optimize diagnostic yield
- Different disorders will require analysis of “involved” and/or “perilesional” skin
- In general, avoid older lesions, ulcers and distal extremity skin
- For specific disorders, see below

BLISTERING DISORDERS:

Pemphigus and pemphigoid groups (including bullous pemphigoid, epidermolysis bullosa acquisita, and linear IgA bullous dermatosis):

- BIOPSY: edge of active blister or perilesional erythematous skin
- AVOID: center of blister, denuded skin, or ulcers

Dermatitis herpetiformis:

- BIOPSY: perilesional, normal-appearing skin, 3-5 mm from blister
- AVOID: active blister

Porphyria and pseudoporphyria:

- BIOPSY: involved skin, preferably edge of active blister
- AVOID: denuded skin, ulcers and older lesions

VASCULITIS:

Leukocytoclastic vasculitis and Henoch-Schonlein purpura

- BIOPSY: active border of new lesion, preferably less than 24-48 hours old
- AVOID: older lesions, ulcers and distal extremities (when possible)

CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES:

Lupus erythematosus (LE) and Dermatomyositis:

- **For DLE, SCLE and DM:**
 - BIOPSY: erythematous or active border of lesion (< 3 months old)
 - AVOID: older lesions, ulcers or lesions on face
 - LABEL: "Lesional"

For SLE and Lupus Band Test (LBT):

- BIOPSY: 2 sites for DIF
 - (1) "Lesional" : erythematous or active border of involved skin
 - (2) "Nonlesional": sun-protected, uninvolved skin, preferably from buttock or thigh
- AVOID: older lesions, ulcers or lesions on face

Information: For any questions, to discuss DIF reports, or to speak directly with Michael Murphy, M.D., the Director of Immunopathology at UConn Health, please call 860-679-3474 or email: mimurphy@uchc.edu

Please refer to the UConn Health Dermatopathology Service webpage for any additional information on DIF or other testing.

UConn Health Dermatopathology Service

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