

For the SURGEON in the operating room

1. **Muscle biopsy site:**
 - Preferred muscle: **Quadriceps**. Vastus lateralis, biceps, deltoid may be used.
 - Muscle biopsies must be specified by the referring physician. Dr. Shoffner will be glad to help with this decision.
 - Any other site **MUST** be approved by Dr. John Shoffner. Some muscles are not optimal for biochemical testing.
 - Call MNG technical staff at 678-225-0220 with any questions.
2. **Muscle biopsy size: approximately 2.0 cm³. Optimally this should be about the size of the last digit on your little finger (5th finger).**
3. **Special considerations:**
 - **Do NOT cauterize the specimen being sent for testing**
 - Avoid gastrocnemius biopsies since neurogenic changes associated with S1 radiculopathies are common and may obscure pathological findings.
 - If proximal muscle is severely affected, consider a more mildly affected muscle such as tibialis anterior for biopsy. In patients with severe proximal muscle disease, fibrosis and fatty infiltration may obscure the diagnosis. This consideration should be addressed with Dr. John Shoffner.
4. **Handling the muscle biopsy in the operating room:**
 - Place the specimen on a sterile gauze pad moistened with normal saline in a securely closed container (such as petri dish or screw top specimen jar). It is very important **NOT** to submerge the specimen in saline and **NOT** to excessively wet the gauze pad. **PLACE THE SPECIMEN CONTAINER ON ICE.**
 - Label specimen container clearly with identifying information for the patient including: patient's name, hospital number, site of the biopsy and the time of surgery.
 - **IMMEDIATELY** transport the specimen on ice to the pathology laboratory for processing. Timing is critical; get specimen to the lab ASAP for transport.
 - **DO NOT PLACE SPECIMEN IN ANY TYPE OF FIXATIVE. DO NOT FREEZE.**

For the Pathology Laboratory

1. **Discuss all biopsies in which metabolic testing is required with Dr. John Shoffner.**
2. Call MNG (678-225-0220) at least 24 hours prior to specimen collection to confirm orders, time of surgery, and the name of contact in Pathology Lab. If contracted with your facility, MNG will arrange courier service to pick up the specimen and have it transported to our lab.
3. On day of biopsy, call MNG (678-225-0220) when sample is ready for courier pickup.
4. MNG will initiate specimen transport procedures, dependent on time constraints. This will allow us to verify shipping arrangements as well as to track specimens to ensure they are delivered as intended should a courier be used.
5. All specimens must be received in our lab for processing within 2 hours of collection **AND** by 3pm. Please have specimens ready for courier pick-up no later than 1pm to allow plenty of time for courier pickup and delivery.

Preparation of Sample for Transport

1. Maintain specimen on a sterile gauze pad moistened with normal saline (**DO NOT SATURATE**) and place in screw top specimen jar for transport. Please ensure specimen container is securely closed. This container is to be placed into a larger container containing **WET** ice. Please do not use freezer packs. The muscle specimen **CANNOT FREEZE**.
2. Fill out MNG Test Request form (located at www.mnglab.com). It is **imperative that the name and phone number (email also if available) for the referring physician (distinct from surgeon) must be on the test requisition**. This information is critical for communication between Dr. John Shoffner and the patient's physician during testing and interpretation.
3. Shipping Address: Medical Neurogenetics, LLC
5424 Glenridge Drive NE
Atlanta, GA 30342
4. Useful Numbers: Main Phone: 678-225-0222
Fax: 678-225-0212
Specimen Pick up/Clinical Questions: 678-225-0220
Technical Questions: 678-225-0222 ext 109, ext 122
5. **Please note that we do not bill patients directly, nor do we bill insurance companies. All testing is billed to the ordering/referring institution.** Please contact our Billing Department at ext.100 for CPT codes/charges for testing requested and/or to set up an institutional account. Visit our website at www.mnglab.com to obtain CPT code and pricing information and the New Account Set-Up Form.