RTOG Biospecimen Resource
The Good, The Bad and The Ugly Biospecimen

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RTOG Tissue Collection

Most trials collect 2 specimen types:

- **FFPE**: Blocks/punches, H&E & Unstained Slides-
  - Ship ambient or on cold pack
  - Sites pay for shipping unless specified in protocol
  - Integral Markers- Overnight shipping recommended

- **Frozen**: Urine, Blood, Plasma, Serum, Fresh tissue-
  - Ship on Dry Ice (>5 lbs)
  - Prepaid labels provided by RTOG BSR
  - Ship Monday- Wednesday

Critical for Banking and Translational Research to have correct and complete collection for each case (Protocols: Section 10 & Appendices)
The Good

Completed ST Form

Happy Fed Ex: Monday & Friday = No Frozens!!!
The Good FFPE

• Ideal shipping containers for FFPE blocks
The Bad FFPE

- Gauze
- Bubblewrap
- Plastic Bags
The Ugly FFPE

- Blocks do not like hot Fed Ex/USPS trucks
The Good Frozen

Plenty of dry ice pellets - specimens will not thaw even if shipment is delayed

Specimen is labeled completely with:
• RTOG study number
• Case number
• Date of collection
• Specimen Type
The Bad Frozen

Incomplete Info on Specimen Labels

Blood shipped in draw tubes

Blood shipped in large vials
The Ugly Frozen

Specimens Received Thawed:
• Insufficient dry ice
• Box too small for amount of samples
• Shipped on Thursday- one day delay

Broken bags/vials
• Common with dry ice bricks
RTOG Biospecimen Resource
We Thank YOU, for your hard work!!

Questions?
Contact us:
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