

CAP/ASCO Guidelines for Duration of Fixation for HER2 Analysis: > 6 hours, < 72 hours

LLUMC Early Run: Starts at 1330, out of formalin at 2030; late run starts at 1500, out of formalin at 2200

DAY 1 (PROCEDURE)

ACCESSIONING

Specimens are accessioned on the day of procedure; priority accessioning ensures that breast specimens can be grossed early in the morning the following day

SPECIMEN

PREPARATION

Specimens are measured, differentially inked, sectioned in a manner to maintain orientation and integrity, and placed in sufficient volume of formalin to ensure thorough fixation

DAY 2 – 24 hours fixation (PROSECTION)

PROSECTION

A priority is placed on prosection of breast mastectomy and lumpectomy specimens, including prophylactic mastectomies. The goal is to have sections of appropriate size and thickness ready when the 1330 early processor begins

SECTION VERIFICATION

Residents and PA students must review tissue section thickness and size with staff PA and/or pathologist prior to closing caps. Tissue that is too thick or large will impair proper processing, and will be trimmed prior to submission.

PROCESSING INITIATION

Blocks of breast tissue ready for processing will be placed in the Breast Early Run Basket (BERB) in the gross room. Gross room personnel will load this tissue when the daily early (1330) run is started.

DAY 3 – 48 hours fixation (LOADING OF HELD CASES)

ACCESSIONING

Cases grossed after 1330 (i.e. caps not ready for the early run) will be placed in the designated breast early run basket (BERB) in the gross room. These “held” cases will be transferred to the processor when the 1:00 run is started on the following day to ensure maximal fixation and processing duration on the processors. These cases will have an extra 24 hours fixation duration, and will undergo the full duration of tissue processing to ensure quality specimen processing and histology.

WEEKEND CONSIDERATIONS

- * Weekend processing run does not begin until Sunday at 1300, out of formalin at 2000
- * Mastectomy specimens from Wednesday surgeries, if not grossed and ready for processing run on Thursday, will not come out of formalin until Sunday at 2000, and will be in formalin for > 72 hours
- * Mastectomy specimens from Thursday surgeries, grossed on Friday (+ 24 hours), will not come out of formalin until Sunday at 2000 (> 72 hours)
- * Mastectomy specimens from Friday surgeries, if not grossed until Monday, will in most cases be in formalin for > 72 hours
- * For the above scenarios in which formalin fixation duration is expected to be > 72 hours, a pilot section (if indicated) taken on the day of surgery to comply with the 6-72 hours fixation duration. Discuss these cases with supervising gross room personnel