

Information for Health Care Providers

Instructions for Genetic Testing RAD and CMA

A: Placenta and Cord

Cytogenetic - for additional information go to the following links:

Calgary and Southern Alberta:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-fetal-tissue-info-sheet-calgary.pdf>

Edmonton and Northern Alberta:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-fetal-tissue-info-sheet-edmonton.pdf>

Note: If cord is macerated also send a 1 cubic centimeter of fresh placental tissue from the chorionic plate (in sterile saline) in a separate container. A maternal blood sample is required for MCC.

Send the appropriate requisition with the specimen(s).

Calgary: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-101667.pdf>

Edmonton: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-09591.pdf>

Obtaining Consent for Autopsy

The result of placenta pathology is important in determining the cause of death or associated conditions. The **placenta should be sent for examination in all cases of perinatal death. Consent for autopsy should be requested from parents for all stillbirths and information on investigations must be provided.** It is important to inform parents that their baby is treated with respect and dignity at all times. Agreeing to an autopsy does not prevent a family from spending time with their baby or choosing to have a funeral or memorial service. If parents have questions about autopsy, consultation with a pathologist may be helpful.

The Alberta Stillbirth Investigation Protocol

The Alberta Stillbirth protocol has been updated by the Alberta Perinatal Health Program and is consistent with national and international standards. Collective evaluation of stillbirth deaths adds to the body of knowledge in identifying reasons for fetal death with an aim towards prevention and decreasing the number of stillbirths for which a cause has not been determined.

Contacts for case consultation:

Edmonton and North Zone

Laurie Russell, MD, FRCPC
Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Misericordia Hospital
Edmonton, AB
Phone: 780-735-2076
Pager: 780-445-6781
University Autopsy Pager: 780-445-5374
Royal Alexandra Hospital Autopsy Pager:
780-445-5281

Central Zone

Clarissa Fauth, MD, FRCPC
Anatomic/Pediatric Pathologist
Red Deer Regional Hospital
Red Deer, AB
Phone: 403-358-4373
Or Autopsy Coordinator Phone:
403-314-6098

Calgary and South Zone

Marie-Anne Brundler, MD, FRCPC
Pediatric Pathologist
Alberta Children's Hospital
Phone: 403-955-7211
On-call Pediatric Pathologists ACH
switchboard: 403-955-7211

Cytogenetics Laboratory

Edmonton: 780-407-1542
Calgary: 403-955-7375

Provincial Laboratory

Contact Virologist on call:
Edmonton: 780-407-7121
Calgary: 403-944-1200

Thrombophilia Work Up

A thrombophilia work up should be undertaken 8 -12 weeks after birth if fetal death is associated with:

- fetal growth restriction
- hypertension disorders in pregnancy
- maternal thrombosis and /or maternal family history of thrombosis
- an unexplained stillbirth after investigation
- test for anticardiolipin antibodies, lupus anticoagulant or APC resistance is positive at the time of birth or not undertaken

DESIGNATIONS:

Part 1: Maternal Chart

Part 2: Physician/Midwife

Part 3: Pathology

Part 4: Alberta Perinatal Health Program