

IDEXX Reference Laboratories

Australia Submission requirements and guidance for complex biopsies



Service update

Changes to the IDEXX Complex Biopsy service

Beginning in January 2024, qualifying complex biopsy specimens not ordered under the Histopathology–Complex Tissue Submission test code will be automatically changed to the HISO test code.

Note: All complex biopsy specimen types in the list below must be ordered with the Complex Biopsy test code.

Qualifying complex biopsy specimens

- + Amputated limbs/digits/jaws (whole or partial), and tails with bone involvement
- + Bone (non-amputated specimen; not obtained by needle or core)
- + Brain (stand-alone; whole or partial)
- + Mammary chain (3 or more mammae), or at least 3 mass lesions
- + Eye
- + Gastrointestinal tract resection and anastomosis specimen
- + Heart (stand-alone; whole or partial)
- + Kidney (whole/nephrectomy)
- + Liver lobectomy with or without gallbladder; excludes wedge/punch/needles/incisional biopsies
- + Lung lobectomy
- + Spleen (whole spleen, partial specimen or multiple incisional specimens)
- + Uterus/ovaries (uterus only, one or both ovaries only, or en bloc)

This test code was created to support the evaluation of more complex biopsies that require the following:

- + Pathologic evaluation of multiple sites or lesions within a tissue or organ
- + Complex trimming
- + Additional processing by our experienced histology technicians
- + Additional decalcification and/or fixation time

Due to this additional processing (and time for decalcification and/or fixation), this test code has a longer turnaround time of 5–14 days. While results are typically provided within 5–7 days, some complex biopsy specimen types can take longer – up to 14 days depending on the level of complexity for specimen assessment, dissection and processing (particularly for specimens involving bone).

Note: Specimens containing teeth require extended decalcification time (up to 21 days).

Special submission guidelines for specimens that are submitted for the Complex Biopsy test code.

Submission guidelines vary based on the specimen type:

Whole, complete or partial organs, such as spleen, kidney or heart

IMPORTANT: IDEXX anatomic pathologists recommend submission of these organs in their entirety under the Complex Biopsy test code, rather than subsampling. For example, submission of a whole spleen is considered

best medical practice and of higher diagnostic yield than submission of only portions or pieces of spleen.

Mammary chain and multiple mammary mass lesions

Mammary masses can be benign or malignant irrespective of size, and multiple masses are often seen histologically. Therefore, chains, or 3 or more mammary masses (as determined grossly or histologically), must be submitted using the Complex Biopsy test code.

Eye

- + Despite relatively small size, trimming is complex and requires time and special care.
- + Retrimms are often needed.
- + Pathologist description and assessment is time consuming relative to other cases.

Jaw (mandible, maxilla) resections and/or amputations

Resected and/or amputated jaws (whole and partial) must be submitted with the Complex Biopsy test code if there are bone margins. This includes whole jaw and any partial jaw resection or amputation (with or without teeth), as these will require complex trimming for optimal margin evaluation. Specimens from the oral cavity related to the jaw but DO NOT involve bone from the mandible or maxilla are excluded under our complex biopsy specimen definition. These specimen types may include:

- + Uncalcified or calcified gingival specimens when submitted without underlying attached jaw bone.
- + Teeth when submitted without surrounding attached jaw bone.
- + Tooth extraction from a soft-tissue mass that does not include any underlying or surrounding attached jaw bone.

Amputated digits

- + Single or multiple amputated digits must be submitted with the Complex Biopsy test code when appropriate to evaluate bone. There is no additional cost if submitting more than one amputated digit.

Large specimens too large to fit in IDEXX-provided formalin pots/containers

- + For optimal fixation of large lesions and tumours, you can make partial slices through the centre of the specimen if required. For large organs such as spleens, making a series of slices 1–2 cm apart through part of the specimen (maintaining architecture, i.e. like partially sliced garlic bread loaf).
- + Large specimens must be appropriately packaged prior to transportation. Use gauze wetted with formalin (not soaked) and wrap the prefixed tissue specimen so that it completely covers all of the tissue. **All excess formalin should be drained prior to packaging.**
- + Large specimens too big to fit in IDEXX-provided packaging supplies should be double bagged and placed in a rigid outer container large enough to fit the specimen. Place absorbents and cold packs in the second bag. Store in the refrigerator (not freezer) until pickup. Please anticipate a longer turnaround time for large specimens.

Supplies

Biopsy specimen submission supplies can be ordered through IDEXX Online Orders.

To learn more about submitting biopsy specimens, please visit vetconnectplus.com.au and idexx.com.au