

# REQUIREMENTS FOR TUMOUR SPECIMENS REFERRED TO VICTORIAN CANCER CYTOGENETICS SERVICE

Solid tumour specimens do not form a large part of our service but are extremely labour-intensive and require prolonged and multiple cultures. The only cases that will be processed will be those where the following diagnoses are considered likely as cytogenetics ±FISH provide important diagnostic or prognostic information in these tumours:

- Ewing tumours
- Synovial sarcoma
- Myxoid and round cell liposarcoma
- Rhabdomyosarcoma
- Desmoplastic small round cell tumours
- Wilm tumours
- Neuroblastoma

**THE REQUEST FORM MUST SPECIFICALLY REQUEST CYTOGENETICS.**

Specimens should be:

- From a viable area of tumour. **Specimens taken from areas of necrosis or normal tissue or from a previously heavily irradiated area are not appropriate for cytogenetic analysis of the tumour.**
- Kept sterile at all times.
- At least 0.5cm<sup>3</sup> in size. **Fine needle aspirates and very small samples will not be processed as our success rate is very low with these samples.**
- Placed in sterile, clearly labelled containers containing RPMI, PBS or viral transport medium and kept at room temperature.
- Sent promptly. **Samples arriving more than 24 hours after collection will not be processed.**
- Delivered Monday to Friday to the laboratory, before 4pm if possible to:

Attention: Victorian Cancer Cytogenetics Service  
Specimen Reception - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Inpatient Services Building  
St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne  
Victoria Parade, Fitzroy 3065  
(03) 9288-4154

