



9 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

9.4 Products of Conception for Cytogenetic Studies

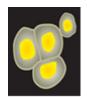
Chromosome abnormalities are found in >50% of spontaneous miscarriages occurring in the first trimester of pregnancy. Cytogenetic analysis of tissue obtained from products of conception is useful in investigating the cause of recurrent miscarriage/IUFD and in the identification of chromosome abnormalities which may potentially pose problems in future pregnancy attempts.

Do not send whole foetus or placenta, only send biopsies.

- Placental biopsy:
- always send for analysis
- take from fetal side of placenta (follow cord to insertion)
- take from centre of placenta (not edge)
- ~1cm³ size
- Skin biopsy:
- always send if possible, conditional on parental consent
- take from back of thigh
- ~5mm² for 16/40 or older; minimum size for < 16/40 is 2mm²
- The person who took the sample should be documented on all relevant paperwork
- Collection:
- please do not expect the Pathologist to take the samples at PM
- use different scissors and forceps for skin and placenta
- use separate universals containing sterile saline
- label universals with patient details and tissue type
- Transport: Without delay store the tissue at 4°C
 - There is no requirement to inform us in advance by telephone

Paperwork:

- use a single Cytogenetics request form and bag
- do **not** send the cytogenetic consent form or any other paperwork
- write legibly please
- give full details:
- consultant
- referral reason
- gestation
- foetal abnormalities (TOP for multiple abnormalities is insufficient if a PM is/is not performed
- information specify what they are)





Tissue should be sent as described above to the Histology laboratory who will forward this **directly** to:

Cytogenetics Laboratory Centre for Life Newcastle-upon-Tyne.