

INSTITUTIONAL ANATOMICAL OVERSIGHT REVIEW COMMITTEE

IAORC Chairman: Catherine G. Ambrose, Associate Professor, Department Of Orthopedic Surgery
MSB 6.154 - Phone: 713-500-7007 - Catherine.G.Ambrose@uth.tmc.edu

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF UNEMBALMED SPECIMENS

Testing

Policy

The IAORC recognizes the value of unembalmed specimens in certain educational and research activities. Nevertheless, the committee also appreciates the risks associated with use of these specimens. Therefore, unembalmed cadavers must be tested for infectious agents before use.

Procedure

The HSF staff will extract a blood sample from unembalmed cadavers for screening of blood-borne pathogens. Samples must be obtained as soon as possible after death and before hemolysis.

Notification of Risk

Policy

Users must be aware of and accept the risks of using unembalmed specimens. The main risks are:

1. The tests may not be certified for use on samples taken from cadavers, and therefore may give false negatives.
2. The specimens may be infected with pathogens that have not been specifically tested.

Procedure

The Project Coordinator and Program Director will acknowledge in writing the risks associated with use of unembalmed specimens by signing the appropriate form. In addition, the Project Coordinator will inform participants in the project of the risks associated with use of unembalmed specimens and obtain signed acknowledgments.

Implementation of Universal Precautions

Policy

In order to minimize the risks associated with use of unembalmed specimens, participants will use Universal Precautions.

Procedure

At a minimum, the body surfaces of those using unembalmed specimens will be protected by use of eyewear, masks, gloves, and gowns. Participants should also wash carefully after each session. Sharp instruments must be disposed in safe containers.

Direct Questions to: Human Structure Facility

Phone: 713.500.6154 - Fax: 713.500.0621

E-Mail Address: HSF@uth.tmc.edu