

CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY GROSSING GUIDELINES

NOTE: Please review all complex or “interesting” gross specimens with Drs. Michael Fishbein, Gregory Fishbein, or Ryan Lau.

Specimen Type: PROSTHETIC CARDIAC VALVES

Procedure:

1. Take gross photographs and x-rays
2. Measure
3. Document presence of lesions, vegetations, calcifications
4. Comment on degree of pannus formation (i.e. tissue overgrowth)
5. For bioprosthetic valves, submit sections of the leaflets
6. Log as gross only as specimens may be reviewed at a later time or kept for teaching purposes

Gross Template:

Labeled with the patient's name (***), medical record number (***), designated “****”, and received [*fresh/in formalin*] is a [*bioprosthetic/mechanical*] valve measuring *** x *** x *** cm. [*Describe type of mechanical valve, the inflow and outflow tract, fused, presence of calcifications or clots*]. The leaflets are [*yellow, smooth, calcified, intact*]. Tears in the leaflets [*are/are not*] identified. Vegetations [*are/are not*] identified. [*Describe thickness of cusps*]. [*Describe chordae tendineae, if present, noting thickening, shortening, or fusion*]. [*Describe any papillary muscle that is included with the specimen*]. A gross photograph is taken. Representative sections are submitted [*describe cassette submission*].

Cassette Submission: 1-2 cassettes of representative tissue (if present)

- Submit sections taken perpendicular to the surface of the valve from the point of attachment to the free margin. Submit cross sections of the chordae tendineae and the base of the papillary muscles, if present.
- Decalcify the sections if necessary.
- **NOTE:** Review all artificial valves with an attending pathologist.

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Caged ball valve



Tilting disc valve



Single leaflet valve



Bi-leaflet valve



Porcine or bovine valve

