

CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY GROSSING GUIDELINES

NOTE: Please review all complex or “interesting” gross specimens with the HL attending assigned to the case.

Specimen Type: VESSELS

Procedure:

General Comments

1. Measure length, diameter and wall thickness.
2. Note presence of any dilatations or constrictions, zones of swelling or inflammation.
3. Describe luminal contents, looking especially for thrombi. Lumen is best evaluated by a series of closely spaced cross sections.
4. Note and sample any areas of hemorrhage, potential dissections, etc...

Atherosclerosis

1. Specimens from endarterectomies and aneurysmectomies for atherosclerosis are frequently received as fragments of atheroma and some intima.
2. Measure. Note range of piece sizes.
3. Describe any identifiable vessel wall or thrombus.
4. Submit representative sections of fragments cut perpendicular to the luminal surface and cross sections of vessels.
5. If vessel is calcified, submit for decalcification.

Varicose veins

1. One block only is usually all that is necessary; describe dilatations, thickening of walls and/or presence of thrombi.

Arteritis and other arterial lesions

1. Arteries biopsied to rule out vasculitis should be grossed by the histotechs per protocol, not by PAs or residents.

Grafts

1. All biologic grafts should be submitted for microscopic examination.
2. Synthetic (dacron or Gore-tex) grafts with lesions should also be sampled, preferably at anastomosis with native vessel.

Aorta (Aneurysms and dissections)

1. A minimum of 6 representative full-thickness sections with 2-3 sections in each cassette should be submitted. For dissections the sections should show the vessel wall with adjacent blood clot.

Gross Template:

MMODAL COMMAND: INSERT VESSEL

It consists of a segment of vessel measuring [***] cm in length x [***] cm in diameter with a wall thickness of [***] cm. The specimen is remarkable for [*describe areas of dilations, constrictions, zones of swelling, inflammation (“tree-barking”)****]. The lumen is remarkable for [*describe luminal contents – looking especially for thrombi****]. Representative sections are submitted in [*describe cassette submission****].

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MMODAL COMMAND: INSERT ENDARTECTOMY

It consists of multiple yellow-tan calcified soft tissue fragments measuring [*measure in three dimensions****] cm. [*The specimen is entirely submitted/representative sections are submitted following decalcification****].

MMODAL COMMAND: INSERT AORTA

It consists of multiple fragments of vessel ranging from [***] cm in length x [***] cm in diameter with a wall thickness of [***] cm. The specimen is remarkable for [*describe areas of dilations, constrictions, zones of swelling, inflammation ("tree-barking")****]. The lumen is remarkable for [*describe luminal contents – looking especially for thrombi****]. Representative sections are submitted in [*submit in 2-3 cassettes with a minimum of 6 full thickness sections submitted****].

Cassette Submission: 1-3 cassettes

- Atherosclerosis: Representative sections to include fragments cut perpendicular to the luminal surface and cross sections of vessels
 - Submit for decalcification if necessary
- Varicose Veins: 1 cassette is sufficient
- Arterial lesions: Serially cross section. Submit 1 representative cross-section and sections of any focal lesions.
- Grafts: Include section at anastomosis with native vessel