

## **BONE AND SOFT TISSUE PATHOLOGY GROSSING GUIDELINES**

- **NOTE: Document in your cassette summary which cassettes (for each specimen part) are submitted for decal**
  - Ex: Representative sections are submitted (A1, A3; B2-B4; C3-C4 following decalcification).
  - Ex: Representative sections are submitted:
    - A1- bone (decal)
    - A2- skin resection margin, perpendicular
    - B2- tibia shave (decal)

### **BONE**

**Specimen Type:** BONE BIOPSY (morphometry studies)

**NOTE: DO NOT DECALCIFY THESE SPECIMENS**

Bone biopsies, usually from the iliac crest, are sometimes taken to aid in the diagnosis of certain metabolic diseases such as osteomalacia, osteoporosis, etc. In most cases the patient has been given tetracycline beforehand (tetracycline labeling). These specimens need to be handled differently than other routine bone specimens. Most importantly, they **MUST NOT BE DECALCIFIED!** When the specimen arrives in Surgical Pathology, the request form should state that the specimen is to be processed for bone morphometry. It may simply state that the patient has been “tetracycline labeled”. It may instruct you to notify the Bone Morphometry lab. In any event, if you see such a specimen, do not process it in the normal manner because it must not be decalcified. Here are the steps to follow to insure the proper handling of these specimens:

1. Place the specimen in 10% buffered formalin.
2. Call the Bone Morphometry Lab at ext. 47510, or 62650, and ask them to come and collect the specimen. (Do not accession the specimen at this time).

Once this specimen has been evaluated in the Bone Morphometry Lab, a stained slide and a copy of their report will be sent back to Surgical Pathology. The case should be accessioned at this time. The slides will then be examined by a member of the Surgical Pathology faculty.

Occasionally two specimens will be provided - one for bone morphometry studies, and one for examination in surgical pathology. In this case, the specimen submitted for examination in surgical pathology will be handled like any other bone specimen. A copy of the request form will then be sent with the specimen for bone morphometry. The surgical pathologist will then examine the specimen for malignancy or other pathology. A comment will be made on the report stating that “**results of bone morphometry studies are pending will be reported separately**”. When bone morphometry studies are completed the report should be added to the surgical pathology report as an addendum. If you have any questions regarding these specimens, please page Dr. Nelson (11361).