

BREAST PATHOLOGY GROSSING GUIDELINES

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- A. Please review relevant medical history (including outside reports) and indication for surgery PRIOR to grossing any breast case. Any oncologic surgery must adhere to ischemic and formalin fixation guidelines (see below) and grossed appropriately.
- B. It may be helpful to document/diagram/photograph biopsy sites, procedure locations, and/or any unusual specimens for grossing.

FORMALIN FIXATION

Due to CAP-recommended guidelines for ER and HER2/neu (including FISH) tumor testing, as much as possible, specimens should be placed in formalin within one hour after the time of surgery or biopsy (collection time). Furthermore, the breast tissue should be in contact with formalin for at least 6 hours, not to exceed 72 hours.

Specimen Type: GYNECOMASTIA

Procedure:

1. Weigh in aggregate if fragmented
2. Measure (aggregate)
3. Document number of portions lined with skin (check for skin lesions/scars)
4. Describe cut surfaces (masses, cysts, %fibrous and %fatty tissue)

**** If received as an un-oriented mastectomy**

- Weigh, measure, and ink differentially (if applicable) or ink entire margin black. Section into levels and describe cut surfaces and gross abnormalities. **Note:** The gross description will resemble a mastectomy specimen!

**** If received as an oriented mastectomy**

- Weigh, measure, and differentially ink as you would a mastectomy specimen. Section from medial into lateral and describe cut surfaces and gross abnormalities. **Note:** The gross description will resemble a mastectomy specimen!

Gross Template:

MMODAL COMMAND: "INSERT REDUCTION"

It consists of multiple yellow-tan portions of fibroadipose tissue measuring [measure in three dimensions] cm in aggregate. The specimen weighs [***] grams in aggregate. [All/ Provide # of portions***] of the portions are surfaced with [tan unremarkable/describe lesion if present***] skin. Sectioning reveals [yellow-tan cut surfaces/describe***]. The tissue consists of [give percentage***] tan-yellow adipose tissue

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and [give percentage***] white fibrous tissue. No lesions or masses are grossly identified. Representative sections are submitted in cassettes [***].

[INSERT INK KEY FOR GYNECOMASTIA CASES/SEE GROSS MANUAL – OTHERWISE DELETE THIS SENTENCE]

Cassette Submission:

- If specimen is received as multiple un-oriented portions → 3 cassettes (more if gross abnormality identified). Submit two sections in each cassette, include skin with at least one section.
- If specimen is received as a mastectomy → submit 4 cassettes (one per quadrant with two sections each, 8 sections total)

Sample Cassette Submission:

CASSETTE SUMMARY:

A1 Fibrous tissue and skin
A2-A3 Fibrous tissue