

Instructions For Using RPMI Media

What is RPMI? RPMI is a media for holding tissue for possible flow cytometry studies.

When do you use it? Typical usage is for lymph node tissue in a case where the diagnosis is to rule out lymphoma.

How much tissue is needed for the test? A 3x3x3 mm specimen (Size of a pencil eraser) is an adequate specimen. The tissue must be fresh.

Do I use the whole container for one specimen? ABSOLUTELY NOT! The media is very costly, and only a small amount is needed per case. Pour some of the media into a red top vacutainer tube, a dilution vial, or even a capped urine cup.

How do I store the container? The container should be refrigerated. Once the seal is broken, and some of the media is poured out, the lid needs to be sealed again with Parafilm.

When does the media expire? Even though there is an expiration date on the container, a much better indication is the color of the media. Fresh solution is peach colored. As the solution oxidizes it changes in color from peach to bright pink. The solution is still good when it is pink but should not be used when it is a very bright pink.

Do I indicate on the request form that tissue is being issued in RPMI? Yes, include it on a separate line on the request form. ***Routinely, a small portion is submitted in RPMI, and the surgeon places the remaining tissue in formalin.

If I have any questions, can I call somebody? Yes. Feel free to call Histology directly at (515) 241-8860, OR (800) 760-9333 and ask for Histology at Iowa Pathology Associates.