

Handling Instructions for Transport Media for Immunofluorescence Studies

Contents: Zeus or Michel's transport media is comprised of ammonium sulfate and distilled water.

Theory: Tissue for immunofluorescence studies cannot be exposed to formalin. The formalin destroys the antigen sites for antibody binding in the staining process on frozen sections. The ideal tissue is fresh, but the alternative is Michel's/Zeus transport media, a buffered aqueous solution.

Instructions:

- 1) The ideal biopsy is a 4 mm punch from the involved area of skin. Avoid shave biopsies if possible.
- 2) Place the tissue immediately in the Michel's/Zeus transport media to avoid drying artifact.
- 3) Write the patient's name, DOB, and site on the container's label.
- 4) On the tissue request form, after the site, indicate that the tissue is for "immuno" studies.
- 5) Place the container in a biohazard transport bag with the request form in the outer pocket and send with our courier.
- 6) Please call our dermatopathologists with questions, 515-241-8866.