

HARVARD BRAIN TISSUE RESOURCE CENTER

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Phone: 1-800-BRAIN BANK or (617) 855-2400 ♦ Fax: (617) 855-3199 ♦ E-mail: BTRC@mclean.harvard.edu
[1-800-272-4622] <http://www.brainbank.mclean.org>

WHOLE FIXED BRAIN TISSUE PROTOCOL

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1. PLEASE CALL THE BRAIN BANK AT 1-800-272-4622 BEFORE REMOVING THE BRAIN.**
 - 2. PLEASE PLACE DECEDENT INTO MORTUARY REFRIGERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WITHIN 6 HOURS AFTER DEATH.**
 - 3. DO NOT EMBALM THE DECEDENT UNTIL AFTER THE BRAIN HAS BEEN REMOVED.**
 - 4. COMPLETE THE BRAIN REMOVAL AS SOON AFTER DEATH AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER DEATH.**
 - 5. THE BRAIN BANK WILL SEND THE PROPER SHIPPING MATERIALS TO YOUR LOCATION.**
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TISSUE PREPARATION

1. Complete the PATHOLOGIST TIME RECORD SHEET provided.
 2. **Brain:** Remove the brain including brainstem and cerebellum, and record weight.
 - Place whole brain into a plastic pail containing 10% buffered formalin.
 - Place dura matter, if available, into the formalin along with the brain.
 3. Secure lid firmly on the pail.
 4. Label specimen clearly with the decedent's name.
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SHIPPING

5. THE BRAIN BANK WILL SEND THE NECESSARY SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS & MATERIALS TO YOUR LOCATION.
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**THANK YOU FOR CAREFULLY FOLLOWING THIS PREPARATION PROCEDURE.
YOUR GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING VALUABLE TISSUE FOR RESEARCH IS VERY MUCH
APPRECIATED.**