

Type of Specimen	Collection Medium	Testing Options	Notes
1. SKIN/SOFT TISSUE A. Viable skin (punches and shaves) B. Soft tissue (subcutaneous masses) C. Viable nail unit (punches, excisions)	Formalin Fixative (Except punch biopsies obtained for the purpose of EPIDERMAL NERVE FIBER DENSITY testing, ENFD specimens MUST be placed in Zamboni's fixative; See ENFD Fixation Guide for overnight shipping instructions.)	Routine Histopathology • Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM) • Immunohistochemical Stains (S100, Melan-A, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin neoplasms (pigmented and verrucous lesions, masses, ulcerations) • Dermatitis (tinea, eczema) • Subcutaneous masses (lipoma, ganglia) • Nail unit neoplasms (melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, etc)
2. DRY KERATIN A. Nail B. Skin scrapings C. Hair	Dry Keratin Bag (no medium) To conserve resources, dry keratin may be sent via USPS postage paid mailers. Contact your local account representative, or Bako Pathology directly, to obtain nail analysis kits, or for information.	Routine Histopathology • Histochemical Studies (PAS, GMS, FM) False-Negative rates for fungal identification may be increased with: 1. Exceedingly small samples 2. Nail samples consisting of only distal plate PCR Assay Identifies Genus and species with higher sensitivity than culture. Not available for formalin-fixed tissue. Fungal Culture Identifies the genus and species of fungal elements; however, is plagued by a very high rate of false-negative tests. For this reason, cultures are performed in tandem with histochemical studies. Not available for formalin-fixed tissue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial infections (such as tinea, candida, pitted keratolysis) • Non-infectious nail dystrophy (psoriasis, onycholysis, microtrauma) • General impression (neoplastic and inflammatory diseases may be suggested by superficial samples; however, definitive diagnosis are uncommon) • Fungal culture final reports cannot be issued for a minimum of four weeks. Earlier growth may be reported in a preliminary report.
3. BONE	Formalin	Routine Histopathology	• Osteomyelitis, neoplasms, exostoses
	Fresh (sterile cup) Aerobic and/or anaerobic swab E-swab (aerobic and/or anaerobic cultures)	Bacteriology (aerobic culture, anaerobic cultures, sensitivities; all may be performed with a single e-swab)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify organisms causing osteomyelitis • Specimens may be: If large-wrapped with gauze moisturized with saline. If small-embedded within media within swab. • Anaerobic specimens should not be exposed to oxygen for more than 30 minutes (place in e-swab or anaerobic swab)
4. ASPIRATION A. Joint fluids	Fresh (sterile cup) or in dehydrated alcohol	GOUT study (crystal analysis)	• Test for monosodium urate crystals
B. Masses, cysts	Fresh (sterile cup) or in Formalin	CYTOLOGY (study of cells)	• Ganglion cyst, benign and malignant neoplasms
5. BACTERIOLOGY A. Wounds B. Aspirations	• Fresh (sterile cup)	Aerobic culture and sensitivity	• Superficial tissues
	• E-swab or Swab with GEL	Aerobic and anaerobic culture and sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep tissue • Specimen should NOT be exposed to oxygen more than 30 minutes • Ship to BAKO via Overnight Service
	• Aerobic Swab (w/o GEL)	Aerobic culture and sensitivity	