

**Collection/storage of NEUROFIBROMA tissue (plexiform/ cutaneous/ intradermal/ spinal) for further NF1-related genetic studies.**

1. Cutaneous neurofibromas should by preference be “shaved” off. Other types of tumors should be surgically removed from the patient. The biopsies should be a minimum of 5 mm in diameter and thickness and be **immediately** immersed in the sterile pre-incubation transportation medium:  
**DMEM + 10% FCS + Peni/Strepto (1x)**. The location where the biopsies were taken needs to be clearly labeled on the specimen containers as well as on the phenotypic checklist, accompanying the specimen.
2. Please also include **buccal swab samples** from the patient. Instructions and sterile swabs will be included with the biopsy collection kit.
3. The **tumor tissue** should be kept **at room temperature** at all times. We need to culture Schwann cells from the tumors for the analyses and hence, **living, viable cells are needed**. The tumor should be sent to the Medical Genomics Laboratory **using priority service shipment** (next day delivery). Please ALWAYS inform us ([mgl@genetics.uab.edu](mailto:mgl@genetics.uab.edu) or 205-934-5562) prior to shipping the biopsy, provide tracking number of the shipment + company and include a form for customs, if appropriate.
4. **Address:**  
Medical Genomics Laboratory  
Attn. Dr. Ludwine Messiaen  
330 KAUL Human Genetics Building  
720 20th Street S  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0024

The medium and the appropriate container for shipment can be obtained from the lab upon request. Please e-mail us at least 3 days prior to the surgery date at [mgl@genetics.uab.edu](mailto:mgl@genetics.uab.edu) and we will ship a package.

If a surgery is rescheduled after we ship the media, please contact us so we can ship out fresh media since the media expires within one week of receipt.