

Retrieval of a Spleen Sample From a Deceased Tissue Donor on behalf of Donation Teams

A spleen sample may be required from a deceased tissue donor to test for CJD prions. If the donation team are unable to perform the tissue donation before the post mortem, the spleen will need to be taken at post mortem.

A copy of the authorisation should be checked before retrieving the spleen to confirm the consent matches the donor.

The spleen can be taken as part of the routine post mortem and a new incision does not need to be made.

Before the spleen is returned to the body at the end of the post mortem, a sample should be placed in a universal tube, this should be enough to fill the tube. The rest of the spleen can be returned to the body as per normal procedure.

The universal tube should then be labelled with a minimum of three points of identification. These can be as follows:

- Full Name of donor
- Hospital or NHS Number
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Incident Number

The time and date of retrieval of the spleen sample must also be recorded.

Once the spleen sample has been labelled, it must be stored in a secure cool location; for example with the donor in the body store; until such a time that it is collected by the tissue donation team to be sent for testing.