Further Questions?

kei a koe etahi patai?

If you have further concerns or questions, please contact us:

> Te Toka Tumai Auckland **Anatomical Pathology Service** 37-41 Carbine Road Mt Wellingtion **AUCKLAND 1060**

īmēra: apsrtp@adhb.govt.nz

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Karakia

Kia hora te marino

Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana

Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei

Aroha atu, aroha mai

Tātou i a tātou katoa

Hui e! Tāiki e!

May peace be widespread

May the sea be like greenstone

A pathway for us all this day

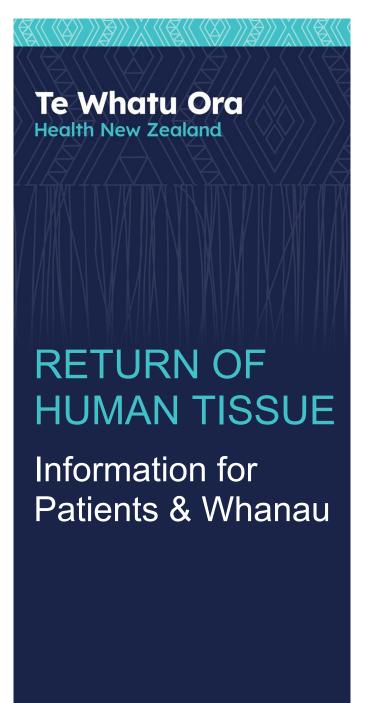
Let us show respect for each other

For one another

Bind us all together!

Te Whatu Ora

Anatomic Pathology Service



What has happened to my tissue?

Lahatia ki ōku kikokiko?

Before your procedure, your doctor will have given you some information to help you decide whether or not to keep your tissue after testing. This is part of your informed consent for the procedure.

After removal, your tissue was placed in formalin preservative. All human tissue is treated with respect.

In the laboratory, the tissue was sliced for closer examination. Very thin slices of some tissue was placed onto microscope slides. An Anatomical Pathologist (specialist doctor) examed your tissue under a microscope and the results were sent to your doctor who can provide them for you. You can ask your requesting doctor, or your family doctor (GP) to explain these results.

What will my tissue look like after testing?

Ka pēhea te āhua o ōku kikokiko i muri te whakamātau?

After processing and testing, your tissue may not look like it did when it was removed. The formalin preservative may have caused the tissue to change colour.

Small pieces will be missing as these have been processed and placed on microscope slides for examination by the Anatomical Pathologist.

These pieces are kept in the laboratory for:

- Review at a later date
- Assist a family member with a similar problem
- Possible inclusion in audits of the laboratory to ensure high standards are maintained.

Important information about handling your tissue

Me pēhea taku tiaki

Your returned tissue has been placed in formalin preservative for processing. Prior to returning your tissue, the formalin is washed off but some will remain in your tissue.

Formalin is a poisonous substance that can irritate your skin, eyes, nose and mouth.

Your tissue has been dried as much as possible, wrapped in tissue paper and placed in a named plastic container. The container has been placed in a bag together with a pair of gloves.

As your tissue has been preserved, there is no need to store in a fridge or freezer.

- Please wear the gloves if handling the tissue and ensure you wash your hands thoroughly after removing the disposable gloves.
- Gloves should be bagged before being placed in your household rubbish.
- Be careful not to breathe in formalin as it may irritate the nose, throat, eyes and mouth and it may cause headaches.
- Wash your eyes immediately with cold water for 15 minutes if they come into contact with formalin and see your doctor if you get formalin in your eyes.
- Contact your doctor immediately if formalin is ingested, taken into the mouth or has any contact with the lips.

Formalin is a poison, keep away from children.
To contact the National Poisons Centre, phone
0800 POISON or 0800 764 766.

Burying your tissue

Te nehu i tō kikokiko

You can bury your tissue in the earth at a private property such as your home. Do not bury in an unauthorized public place.

Formalin will prevent decomposition of tissue for a considerable and undefined length of time (this can be for more than 20 years).

It should be buried at a depth to prevent access to animals and so it cannot contaminate near surface soil – the recommended minimum depth is 1 metre.

When preparing tissue for burial, remove any plastic (eg. caps, bags, containers, as these are not biodegradable). It is best to tear the tissue paper once it is in the earth to allow the soil / bacteria into the tissue.

Handling the tissue may expose you to residual formalin.