Findings During Retrieval Requiring Histopathology Assessment

Summary of Significant Changes
When informed of information from SNOD, the Hub is responsible to inform all centres of findings (lesion found and whether or not being biopsied, timescales of results, results) as standard – Any SNOD discussions with centres will be in addition of this.

Additional clarity that SNOD has the responsibility to contact the Hub to ensure provisional histopathology results are received when expected (as agreed when sending). Hub will not contact the SNOD with this information as the SNOD may no longer be on duty.

Clarity that lead SNOD is responsible of obtaining any final histopathology results post donation, irrelevant of provisional result, and the information is then disseminated to HUB, DRD and RPoC’S.

Purpose
During the Organ Retrieval Process there are occasions when suspicious lesions are identified that require histopathology assessment. This is not a service provided or commissioned by NHSBT and the destination of samples can vary significantly.

This process provides guidance for all those involved in the histopathology assessment of samples that may affect the safety of an organ, including SNODs, NORS teams, histopathologists, Biomedical Scientists, Hub Operations staff, and Transplant centres.

Responsibilities
National Organ Retrieval Team (NORS) – Identify any lesion that may require histopathology assessment, gain advice where required and inform the SNOD as soon as lesion identified. To complete all relevant clinical information on National Request Form (FRM5867).

Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation (SNOD) To facilitate the organisation of samples to be sent for histopathology assessment as agreed by the NORS surgeon and complete demographics on the National Histopathology Request Form (FRM5867). To communicate, report and document any findings requiring additional action that is identified during the organ donation process to Hub Operations. The SNOD is responsible for ensuring the provisional and final histopathology results are ascertained.

Histopathology Laboratory – Notify SNOD/Hub Operations of any findings or results following histopathology assessment.

Hub Operations (HO) – To communicate with the appropriate RCPoC/National Referral Centre (NRC)/SNBTS/Donor Records Department (DRD) once informed of the finding and document their actions on NTxD.

Transplant Centres – To notify Hub Operations if there is any change in agreed process for assessment. To notify Hub Operations immediately if any new suspicious lesions are identified at organ assessment at the Recipient Centre, and timescales of any results to be available.

Donor Records Department (DRD) – To forward all histopathology findings to the SNOD as soon as they are received from Hub Operations. NB the DRD is not a 24/7 service.

Items Required
FRM5867 – National Histopathology Request Form
MPD881 – Findings Requiring Additional Action
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National Organ Retrieval Team (NORS) Surgeon - Identifies lesion of concern. If required, NORS surgeon to discuss with relevant recipient team for advice

NORS surgeon to consider whether to discuss with a histopathologist to ascertain if biopsy will provide beneficial results prior to implantation

Decision made to take biopsy

Yes

NORS team take biopsy

SNOD - Informs HO and confirms HO will urgently inform ALL accepting centres of findings and decision not to take biopsy

No

Continue with Retrieval Process

SNOD - Informs HO and confirms HO will urgently inform ALL accepting centres of findings and decision not to take biopsy

Where a robust regional histopathology service is in place this should be utilised. Where this is not in place, contact either the accepting liver or cardiothoracic centre to request completion of the histopathology at that centre

SNOD - Where a robust regional histopathology service is in place this should be utilised. Where this is not in place, contact either the accepting liver or cardiothoracic centre to request completion of the histopathology at that centre

SNOD - Confirm with Biomedical Scientist (BMS)/histopathologist approximate time scales for initial results

NORS – Wrap specimen in a saline dampened gauze (unless otherwise advised by the SNOD after discussions with BMS/histopathologist)

SNOD - Complete demographics of FRM5867 and ensure sample pot includes 3 points of donor ID. SNOD arranges transport of sample to histopathology (with organ/with NORS/separate transport)

NORS Surgeon – Complete lesion findings and relevant clinical details on National Histopathology Request Form (FRM5867)

NOTE – If a centre states that they still wish a biopsy to be taken to allow transplantation to proceed, the NORS surgeon should discuss directly with the transplant surgeon and a decision made

Where this is not possible or there is no liver or cardiothoracic centre accepting, explore option of local donor hospital, accepting renal/pancreas centres or NORS centre completing histopathology

Consideration to be given to time scales, geographical location and availability of results when deciding which centre to contact

Responsibilities Key

NORS
SNOD
DRD

Histopathologist

HO
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**SNOD** – Informs HO of where histopathology will be completed and expected timescales for initial results. Confirm HO will inform ALL centres of this information urgently

**HO** – Verbally informs ALL accepting centres urgently of timescales of results

**Histopathology/Recipient Centre** - sample arrives at centre and processed

**IF AT ANY POINT A DECISION IS MADE NOT TO PROCESS A SAMPLE OR TIMESCALES ARE ALTERED ALL ACCEPTING CENTRES MUST BE INFORMED TO ENSURE THE DECISION DOES NOT IMPACT ON THE IMPLANTATION OF ANY ORGANS. THIS IS STILL THE CASE IF IT IS FELT THE LESION IS NOT SUSPICIOUS**

If a suspicious lesion is noted at the Transplant Centre that was not noted during retrieval and a biopsy taken, Hub Operations (HO) must be immediately contacted to ensure all other centres are informed of findings

**Histopathology** - When initial results are available contact the SNOD who can provide details of implanting surgeons/recipient coordinators if needed to discuss difficult/equivocal case. Provide SNOD with preliminary findings and confirm report/summary will be sent to the HO immediately to enable dissemination to relevant centres

**Histopathology** - Email a copy/summary of the frozen section report immediately to: odthub.operations@nhsbt.nhs.uk and they will disseminate to all relevant centres/individuals. Include pathologists name and contact number in case surgeon needs to discuss case. Email must include 3 donor identifiers provided on request form

**SNOD** – Contact HO to confirm receipt of histopathology report to ensure unnecessary delays

**HO** – Send histopathology results to all accepting organ centres/NRC/SNBS via secure email and DRD. Contact all accepting organ centres urgently via phone to ensure receipt

**Histopathology** - Email final report to odthub.operations@nhsbt.nhs.uk Email must include 3 donor identifiers provided on request form

**SNOD** – Liaise with Histopathologist if results not received within expected timescales

**SNOD** – Ensure receipt of final results of any histopathology sent at time of retrieval as per MPD881. Final results are required even if provisional results indicate a benign result

**HO** - Send to all accepting centres/NRC/SNBS via secure email and DRD. Confirm verbally with ALL recipient centres that email is received

**DRD** – Forward histopathology result to SNOD for information only – as HO will have forwarded to centres

**Whilst the results may be directly communicated to a local recipient coordinator they MUST also be sent to ODT Hub directly**