



Pathology Examination of Routine Vascular Specimens

Date Effective: June 20, 2017

For the following specimen types, routine microscopic examination does not add significant clinical information in the vast majority of cases:

- 1. Lower limb amputations for peripheral vascular disease**
- 2. Endarterectomy specimens**
- 3. Aortic thrombus material**

These specimens will now be handled as 'Gross Diagnosis Only' unless indicated by the surgeon on the requisition that microscopic examination is required for clinical reasons. All specimens will have a careful external gross examination and if there are unexpected findings a microscopic examination will be performed.

If the surgeon has any clinical concerns, a request for microscopic examination must be clearly stated on the pathology requisition, in addition to the pertinent clinical information.

All cases that do not have a microscopic examination performed will include a statement in the pathology report alerting the physician that microscopic examination has not been performed, and that if there are clinical concerns the pathologist should be contacted. For a period of time after the report is released, the specimens are retained so that a microscopic examination can still be performed if the pathologist is contacted.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Reference:

- Routine Pathological Examination of Vascular Surgery Specimens Is Unnecessary and Costly
[http://www.jvascsurg.org/article/S0741-5214\(15\)01685-7/abstract](http://www.jvascsurg.org/article/S0741-5214(15)01685-7/abstract)

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