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Protocol for sectioning paraffin blocks at source laboratory

It is the responsibility of the sending laboratory to ensure that the relevant block which contains the lesion of interest is selected.

1. Ensure, microtome and surrounding area are cleaned thoroughly (recommended cleaner-microsol wipes) and that howie coat and gloves are worn throughout the procedure.
2. Select the relevant FFPE block and face up to ensure even surface.
3. Using a fresh blade take 10 um section and place into a 2 ml DNase/RNase free screw cap tube (eg sarstedt tube) or eppendorf - avoid using cryo-vials or wider diameter tubes if possible.
4. Using a new blade take an additional 10 um section and place into a second screw cap sarstedt tube
5. Tubes containing the section should be labelled with Surname, Forename, CHI and DOB as instructed in section 5.2

If sending a section to SHPVRL for the first time, use an additional (third) new blade to section a "blank" paraffin block containing no tissue and place in a separate tube. This will be tested to exclude potential environmental contamination. If a regular requestor you may be asked to send additional "blank" sections intermittently, SHPVRL will contact you with details.