



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

## BIOPSY TIPS AND DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS IN DERMATOPATHOLOGY

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'Tissue is the issue'. The first and foremost diagnostic tool in the armamentarium of the dermatopathologist relies in receiving a good specimen to enable appropriate interpretation at the microscope.

This will start in the clinic, with the correct choice of the biopsy site as well as procedure type; these will be different based on the clinical query. The value of serial sections in the laboratory will be underscored, as well as the use of special stains and immunohistochemistry to help morphology confirm 'identity' of the lesions.

While most diagnoses are reached by examination on hematoxylin and eosin (H&E), ancillary techniques such as direct immunofluorescence in immunobullous disorders, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in lymphoproliferative disorders and fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) in borderline melanocytic neoplasms may occasionally come into play to enhance diagnosis.

Clinical-pathological correlation with good communication between the dermatologist and the dermatopathologist is paramount in all instances in order to reach the best diagnostic yield.

