



Cardiac Pathology Program

Overview

CryoLife's cardiac pathology program is a mechanism to provide cardiac examination options to Medical Examiners and pathologists who release hearts for transplant.

In addition, it provides valuable information for CryoLife in the assessment of donor suitability.

The program was established in 1995. Since then, we have provided pathology services on more than 14,000 hearts. Approximately 10% of these are from pediatric donors. Over 60% of all hearts processed by CryoLife go through our cardiac pathology program.

Advancing our Capabilities

CryoLife recently completed the construction of an in-house pathology laboratory to increase the efficiency of the cardiac pathology examinations performed on donor hearts. We want to ensure Medical Examiners and Coroners have timely access to all available evidence and information to determine the cause and manner of death.

The cardiac pathology program includes the following services:

- Conducting a basic gross description of the heart with weight measurement performed prior to valve dissection.
- Completing a gross and microscopic examination of the residual heart tissue.
- Providing a thorough cardiac pathology report with pertinent gross and microscopic images.
- Returning the residual heart tissue and microscopic slides to the local Medical Examiner or Coroner upon request.

CryoLife has the capability to transmit microscopic images through the Internet for live consultation on findings of interest.

These services are provided at no charge to the Medical Examiner, Coroner or tissue recovery agency.

Developing Strong Relationships

Medical Examiner and Coroner cases constitute the single most important source for healthy organ and tissue donors. These donors account for more than half of the total heart valves processed by CryoLife and they provide allograft implants for hundreds of patients across the country.

CryoLife recently formed a Medical Examiner Advisory Committee to advise and guide us as we identify ways to improve our pathology program. Our goal is to better understand the issues Medical Examiners and Coroners confront when making the determination to release a heart.

Further, we hope to strengthen the confidence and trust local Medical Examiners and Coroners have in our program. Ultimately, this will increase the number of tissues available to help patients in need.

Caring for the needs of families who have suddenly or violently lost a loved one is an important responsibility of the Medical Examiner or Coroner. We believe tissue donation can provide something positive for these families during a difficult time.

CryoLife is committed to facilitating the gift of tissue donation without impeding the responsibilities of the Medical Examiner or Coroner.

Visit our website, www.cryolife.com for more information.