

## IS LABORATORY WASTE HANDLING SAFE? A LOCAL STUDY ON WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN FIVE HISTOPATHOLOGY LABORATORIES

A U Kiriwandeniya

Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences,  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
*udanikiriwandeniya@yahoo.com*

Waste generated in histopathology laboratory is unique and proper disposal is mandatory to avoid harmful effects on people and environment. The objective of this project was to study current waste management practices in randomly selected five histopathology laboratories in Colombo district. Data was collected using semi structured questionnaires, observations and interviews. The study identified waste generated in histopathology laboratories under five categories: pathological waste, chemical waste, sharps and glass slides, paraffin blocks and general waste. The process of waste management in each centre was studied in the steps of segregation, handling, storage and disposal. Especially in the step of disposal of waste, each waste category was studied separately. Fixed specimens and body fluids were included under pathological waste. Fixatives, dehydrating agents, clearing agents

and stains were the major components that were studied under chemical waste. Sixty percent of centres had universally accepted practices with regard to disposal of pathological waste, sharps and glass slides and general waste. Management of chemical waste and paraffin blocks were not satisfactory in majority of the five centres assessed. The study also revealed that most of the laboratories were aware of significant steps of managing waste generated within the pathology laboratory, although improper management practices are evident throughout the process. Finally, as workers of histopathology laboratories, one needs to aim to join the nation in protecting a green globe for the next generation.

**Keywords:** Histopathology Lab Waste, Management of Lab Waste, Global Standards