

## **Biopsy Site Guidelines for Direct Immunofluorescence**

### **BLISTERING DISORDERS**

#### **Bullous pemphigoid, Epidermolysis Bullosa Acquisita and Pemphigus**

- BIOPSY: the edge of an active blister or erythematous skin
- AVOID: having the epidermis come off, ulcers and the distal extremities

#### **Dermatitis herpetiformis:**

- BIOPSY: normal appearing skin 3 mm from a blister
- *Multiple biopsies may be required*
- AVOID: active lesions
- SPECIFY: "involved" or "uninvolved"

#### **Porphyria and pseudoporphyria:**

- BIOPSY: the edge of an active blister
- AVOID: ulcers, erosions and old lesions

### **CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES / INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS**

#### **Lupus erythematosus (LE) and Dermatomyositis (DM) Lichen Planus (LP):**

For DLE, SCLE and DM:

- BIOPSY: erythematous border of an established (>3 months) lesion
- AVOID: old lesions
- SPECIFY: "involved" or "lesional"

For SLE and the Lupus Band Test (LBT):

DO TWO BIOPSIES FOR DIF:

1. BIOPSY: erythematous or active border of an established lesion ("involved")
2. BIOPSY: sun-protected, nonlesional, buttock or inner thigh ("uninvolved")
  - AVOID: old lesions, ulcerated skin, and facial lesions
  - SPECIFY: "uninvolved" or "nonlesional"

### **VASCULITIS (e.g. Henoch Schonlein purpura)**

- BIOPSY: fresh pink and/or active border of new lesion
  - *ideal lesion should be less than 48 hours old*
  - *uninvolved skin may yield diagnostic information but is less sensitive*
- AVOID: ulcers, old lesions, and when possible distal lower extremities
- SPECIFY: "involved" or "uninvolved"