

# Archived FFPE TISSUE BLOCKS

## REMARKABLE VALUE, IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE

Archived FFPE tissue blocks are a viable, cost-effective option to consider when sourcing FFPE tissue blocks for research — all without compromising performance, quality, or the tenets of compliance. Archived FFPE blocks can offer significant value in oncology, hematology and immunology research — notably for replication, validation and immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing — whether in academic research, drug discovery, or diagnostic development.

## ADVANTAGES OF USING ARCHIVED FFPE TISSUE BLOCKS

Archived FFPE blocks can alleviate significant procurement challenges in that they are typically:

- **More affordable:** Archived FFPE blocks cost up to 70% less than prospectively collected samples.
- **More plentiful:** These samples have been collected for years, which is especially important for researchers needing rare disease samples in larger quantities.
- **Quicker to arrive:** These samples are already fixed and ready to ship.
- **Scientifically viable and reliable:** Tissue is fixed immediately upon removal and, thus, well-preserved despite the number of years in storage.
- **In some cases, uniquely valuable:** Archived FFPE blocks are generally more likely than newer specimens to reflect later stages of certain diseases that over the last decade may have been diagnosed and treated earlier.



## UNDERSTANDING ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF PATIENT CONSENT

Many organizations restrict themselves to using only tissue collected or stored for research use, with affirmative patient consent. However, for many types of research, including replication, validation, and IHC testing, limiting usable biospecimens to fresh and banked consented specimens may be unnecessarily difficult and expensive. Archived blocks may be a superior fit for these types of studies.

Although consent for use in research is not obtained by patients at the time of collection, institutional review boards (IRBs) in the United States grant full approval to use such specimens for research by waiver of consent per federal regulations as long as the FFPE block has met a 10-year storage requirement. As with any specimen we distribute, patient privacy remains fully enforced, and any specimen-level [data](#) remains de-identified.

iSpecimen recognizes that many of our specimen providers are vigilant about informing and asking their patients for use of de-identified clinical discards even though the law does not require it. Thus, we always offer consent programs for our partner sites.

## A MARKETPLACE FOR HUMAN BIOSPECIMENS

The iSpecimen Marketplace is your one-stop source for millions of tissue samples, along with biofluids and viable cells. The iSpecimen Marketplace makes finding and managing biospecimen procurement efficient, from contracting, specimen search, and compliance management to order and shipping tracking. Join thousands of researchers and [create your login today](#), it's free.

## QUICKENING ACCESS: SOURCING OUTSIDE OF THE US

In the US, clinics must store FFPE blocks for 10 years after collection before making them available for research. Researchers can also source archived FFPE blocks from outside of the US, where mandatory storage periods can be considerably shorter than in the U.S. — typically two or three years after collection. These samples are relatively simple to ship, so out-of-country logistics pose no barriers to procurement. Find thousands of these “shorter-term” archived blocks through iSpecimen’s partner network.

**For more information or to request a quote, please contact us at [iSpecimen.com](https://www.ispecimen.com) or [sales@ispecimen.com](mailto:sales@ispecimen.com)**