



Life Restoring Technologies®

## Cardiac Pathology Program

### Overview

CryoLife's cardiac pathology program provides cardiac examination options to Medical Examiners, Pathologists, and Coroners who have the responsibility of investigating the deaths of tissue donors. In addition, it can provide valuable information for CryoLife in the assessment of donor suitability.

The program was established in 1995. Since then, Medical Examiners and pathologists have benefited from pathology services on more than 25,000 hearts. Our pathology laboratory currently performs over 2500 cardiac examinations each year. Among these, approximately 20% are from pediatric donors and 70% are autopsy cases.

### Comprehensive Cardiac Examinations

The cardiac pathology examination includes the following services:

- ❖ Gross description of the heart (weight measurement performed prior to valve dissection)
- ❖ Both gross and microscopic examination of the residual heart tissue
- ❖ A thorough cardiac pathology report with pertinent gross and microscopic images
- ❖ Coronary artery anatomy
- ❖ Conduction system evaluation - SA node and AV node (when available)
- ❖ Tissue retention - tissue is stored for 90 days
- ❖ Residual heart tissue and microscopic slides can be returned to the local Medical Examiner or Coroner upon request
- ❖ Final report distribution by email (reduces unnecessary delays)

CryoLife has the capability to transmit microscopic images through the Internet for live consultation on findings of interest ([www.pathology.cryolife.com](http://www.pathology.cryolife.com)).

These services are provided at no charge to the Medical Examiners, Pathologists, and 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 life-saving or life-enhancing allograft implants for thousands of patients across the country.

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](http://www.cryolife.com) for more information.

1655 Roberts Boulevard, NW • Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

Phone: 770-419-3355 • 800-438-8285 – US & Canada

Fax (770) 590-3742

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