**Purpose**

The ganglion cyst is the most common soft tissue mass of the hand and wrist (infrequently the foot). These cysts are usually 1-2 cm in size, uni or multilocular, filled with a jelly-like myxomatous fluid and are attached to a tendon sheath or connected with an underlying joint. Ganglion cysts often occur when there is a tear in the ligaments and the lining herniates out of the ligamentous defect. It is a non-neoplastic condition that can often recur.

**Procedure**

* Measure the cyst in 3 dimensions and note if it’s intact or ruptured.
* Serial section along the long axis and describe the cut surfaces (unilocular, multilocular, filled with clear, viscous fluid, etc.)

**Sections for Histology**

* Submit 1 section per cm, but usually can be submitted entirely in 1 cassette.

**Sample Dictation**

“Left Hand Ganglion Cyst”. Received in a small container is a 1.0 x 1.0 x 1.0 cm intact cyst. Sectioning reveals a smooth lined, oligolocular cavity filled with clear, viscous fluid. A1. 4ss

**References**

1. http://www.med.und.edu/users/jwhiting/gangdef.html