**Purpose**

Rib resections are often performed for thoracic outlet syndrome or TOS. TOS is a condition where numbness and pain are produced by compression of blood vessels and nerves of the upper chest by skeletal enlargement, congenital malformations or injury. This condition is often treated by resection of the first rib in order to spare injury to the affected nerve and/or blood vessels from constant compression.

**Procedure**

* Measure the rib segment in 3 dimensions and note any attached skeletal muscle or fascia.
* Make a longitudinal cut through the rib.
* Dictate any gross findings.
* Take photographs.
* Specimens are for gross examination, unless a gross abnormality is identified.
* At the end of the dictation, dictate a gross diagnosis using the standard “RIBS” gross diagnosis template: Bone, # R/L rib, resection: No abnormality (gross diagnosis).

**Sections for Histology**

* Tissue is for gross examination unless gross abnormalities are identified.

**Sample Dictation**

“Right rib #1”, Received in a small container filled with formalin is a 4.5 x 1.8 x 0.9 cm rib segment with attached skeletal muscle. Bivalved to reveal unremarkable cut surfaces. Photographs taken. Gross examination only.

Gross Diagnosis: Bone and skeletal muscle, #1 right rib, resection: No abnormality (gross diagnosis).