The lung research specimen biobank located at the Thoraxklinik Heidelberg (TK-HD) is an accredited subsidiary (DAP-IS-4153.04 according to DIN EN ISO / IEC 17020) of the National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidelberg (NCT), which is integrated into the BioMaterialBank Heidelberg (BMBH). The NCT Tissue Bank is registered with the German Technology and Method Platform for Medical Research Networks (TMF) and the European Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI).

Each year about 400-500 new tissue specimens and 1000 new blood samples are added to the biobank. About two thirds of tissue samples are derived from lung cancer patients (tumor tissue plus matched normal lung tissue, lymph nodes). In addition, tissue of other thoracic malignancies (carcinoids, mesothelioma, thymoma, lung sarcomas), metastatic cancer to the lung (colorectal carcinoma, renal cell carcinoma etc.), and to a lesser extent benign lung diseases (hamartomas, interstitial lung diseases, COPD, pneumothorax) are collected.

TK-HD biobank currently comprises the following specimens:

- fresh-cryopreserved lung tissue and tumor sample sets (surgical/ biopsies)
- FFPE tissue samples
- multi tissue arrays
- samples of epithelial lining fluid
- blood samples (serum/plasma/buffy coat; PAXgene
- primary cell cultures including spheroids
- extracted nucleic acids

Biobank-characteristics:

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