

## **Lay Summary**

**BRAIN UK Ref: 14/014**

### **Positive control tissue in direct and indirect immunohistochemistry, Western blot or other protein detection techniques**

**Dr Ian Galea, University of Southampton**

The aim of this project is to ensure that certain laboratory reagents (antibodies), used in research projects, are performing as well as they should. This quality control utilizes human brain tissue which has been fixed in formalin. The choice of human tissue will depend on which reagent is being tested. For example it may be normal human brain tissue if the reagent recognizes a normal protein. On the other hand it may be human brain tissue from someone dying of a brain bleed, if the reagent recognizes abnormal proteins that are a consequence of haemorrhage. In laboratory terminology, this type of tissue is called “positive control” tissue since the reagent should result in a positive result in the laboratory when tested on this tissue. A number of research scenarios will benefit from this type of quality control support; for example when a patient with a terminal neurological condition wants to donate their brain for research.