PLATELET-POOR PLASMA

Tests of the haemostatic mechanism are extremely sensitive to methods of sample collection and processing. Test results are a direct result of sample integrity.

Specimens may be collected in evacuated tube systems or by a two-syringe technique.

When samples are collected from patients with indwelling catheters, the first 20 mL of blood must be discarded or used for other tests before the coagulation specimen is drawn.

If the catheter contains heparin, 30 mL of blood must be discarded or used for other tests before the coagulation specimen is drawn. The sample should be obtained without trauma.

Specimens must be labeled with the name of the patient, type of specimen (plasma or serum) and the time of collection. This information should also be noted on the requisition form.

1. Draw a plain red top tube to remove tissue fluid contamination. Discard this tube.
2. Draw blood into a light blue top tube of sodium citrate 3.2%. Fill to the proper level. Use of other anticoagulants may cause invalid results.
3. Invert gently 6 times to mix. Process immediately.
4. Centrifuge at 3200 rpm for 15 minutes.
5. Remove plasma using a plastic pipette to transfer into a plastic transport tube.
6. Centrifuge the plasma tube at 3200 rpm for 15 minutes to assure complete platelet removal.
7. Using a plastic pipette, transfer the top plasma layer to a second plastic transport tube.
8. Label the tube with the patient’s name and “platelet poor citrate plasma”.
9. Freeze the transport tube.