

HEMOSTASIS/THROMBOSIS

SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to produce valid results for homeostasis/thrombosis testing, specimen integrity is crucial and must be maintained.

1. Obtain venous blood by clean venipuncture. Avoid slow flowing draws and/or traumatic venipunctures as either of these may result in an activated or clotted sample.
2. Do not use needles smaller than a 23 gauge.
3. Always draw a 7-10 ml red top tube prior to drawing light blue vacuum tube(s) for coagulation specimen. Discard the red top tube or use for other testing.
4. Light blue tubes must be filled completely, an exact ratio of 9 parts of blood to 1 part anticoagulant is needed. Mix tubes **immediately** after draw by gentle inversion. **Tubes not filled completely will be rejected.**
5. All requests for special coagulation testing must include a brief patient history and other pertinent clinical information (i.e. medications, blood products, etc.)

For Specimens not received within 4 hours of collection:

6. Immediately centrifuge the specimen at no less than 1700 x g for 15 minutes. Platelet-poor plasma is required. Use of a refrigerated centrifuge (5°C) is preferred. **Hemolyzed specimens will be rejected.**
7. Immediately remove only the top two thirds of the platelet-poor plasma from the sample using a plastic transfer pipet (use of glass transfer pipets may result in activation and/or clotting of the plasma). Place the plasma in a properly labeled plastic vial and clearly mark the vial contents as PLASMA. **Glass vials will be rejected.** If serum specimen is also being sent, be sure to marked as SERUM. Quick freeze the plasma samples using a -60°C to -70°C freezer.
8. Ship or transport samples on dry ice.

Patients on oral anticoagulants should be monitored using the recommended laboratory testing protocol listed below:

Coumadin (Warfarin) - Protime

Heparin (Unfractionated) – APTT

Heparin (Fractionated/ Low Molecular weight) – Anti Xa Assay

Lepirudin, Bivalirudin, Aratroban, (direct Thrombin Inhibitors) – Thrombin Time

NOTE: Samples containing heparin should not be used for coagulation studies. If possible, stop heparin therapy before the draw to avoid contamination. Heparin interferes with most clotting assays.