آغا خان یونیورسٹی ہسپتال
The Aga Khan University Hospital
Clinical Laboratories

Specimen Collection and Transportation Information

Test Name	Mnemonic	Section	Specimen Type
Platelet Aggregation / Function Test	PLATA	Coagulation	Plasma

- **Preparation of the Patient:**
  a) Patient for platelet aggregation test should be resting, fasting and non-smoking.
  b) Patient should avoid taking any prescription or over the counter medication known to affect platelet function for ten days to two weeks prior to the test.

- **Type of Collection Container:** 3.2 % buffered trisodium citrate **(**blue top) and EDTA (purple top). Bleeding Time (BT) is also performed

- **Types and Amounts of Preservatives or Anticoagulants:** 3.2 % buffered trisodium citrate and EDTA

- **Quantity of Specimen to be collected:** 3.2 % buffered trisodium citrate (5 to 6 tubes), up to the given mark on blue top tubes and 1 EDTA (Purple Top)
  - **Minimum Quantity:** 3.2 % buffered trisodium citrate (5 tubes) & 1 EDTA tube.

- **Transportation Temperature:** Only fresh samples are acceptable which are collected in main lab of "The Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi".

- **Need for Special Timing for Collection (where applicable):** Sample is not collected at collection point.

- **Specimen Stability Information:**
  a) All specimens are kept at room temperature (+18 to +24°C) and should not be placed on ice, in a refrigerator or a water bath.
  b) The time delay between collection, transport and analysis should ideally be preferably between 30 minutes and 2 hours but not more than 4 hours.

- **Special Instruction:**
  a) It is important that the blood is added to the appropriate volume of anticoagulant within one minute of draw.
  b) Regardless of the device use for specimen collection, all tubes should be inverted at least four times to mix.
  c) Excess mixing can cause hemolysis and/or platelet activation leading to erroneous result.

Approved by Service Line Chief and Director Dr. Farooq Ghani dated 1st April, 2016
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d) If multiple specimens are collected, the coagulation sample can be the first tube or only tube drawn.
e) All specimens are kept at room temperature and should not be placed on ice, in a refrigerator or a water bath.

- **Rejection Criteria:**
  a) Specimen improper labeled as to patient identity (unlabeled or mislabeled).
  b) Patient identification mismatched between specimen and requisition slip.
  c) Specimen improper collected i.e. hemolysed, clotted, over-filled or under-filled tubes.
  d) Improper collection container i.e. leakage or broken sample tube or container.
  e) Improper preservative, or improper anticoagulant e.g. 3.8% sodium citrate, EDTA, oxalate or heparin.
  f) Sample is drawn through a vascular Access Device (VAD) using a blood collection system or a syringe.
  g) Incomplete test requisition slip (i.e., required test information not present)
  h) Specimen volume inadequate (QNS) for analysis.
  i) Wrong or inappropriate source given for testing.

- **Need for Appropriate Clinical Data, When Indicated (Patient history):** Required

Methodology	Reporting Scheme	Day Performed	Cut Off Time Main Lab	Cut Off Time Karachi Points	Cut Off Time Out of Karachi Points
Optical	After 3 days	Tuesday-Friday	12:01am	Sample is not collected at collection point	Sample is not collected at collection point

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