



PLATELET AGGREGOMETRY UPDATE

Date: March 19, 2008

Subject: Improved Collection Requirements for Platelet Aggregation Testing

Dear Valued Clients,

CLSI (formerly NCCLS) recently published new guidelines for platelet function testing by aggregometry. The intent of these guidelines is to achieve greater uniformity of results. Included in the new guidelines is the approval of sodium citrate vacutainer tubes for specimen collection.

Effective immediately, specimen collection for platelet aggregation testing will no longer require 'special' conical tubes, making sample collection for this test more convenient.

Instructions for test preparation and the new specimen collection requirements are provided below. Please make a note of this procedure update in your Client Users Guide.

PLATELET AGGREGATION Sample Collection Procedure

Preparation:

1. Because the test must be performed within 3 hours of collection, please contact the lab before scheduling a patient collection. Tests are scheduled on weekday mornings before 10 a.m.
2. Platelet aggregation studies should not be done on individuals who have ingested aspirin or aspirin-containing drugs for 10 days prior to the scheduled test. Additionally, patients should be advised to refrain from eating at least 3 hrs before testing to reduce the possibility of lipemia in their plasma.
3. Normal control sample will need to be collected from a healthy volunteer (not related to the patient) immediately before or after patient samples are collected.

Collection:

1. Properly prepare patient and site for a blood draw.
2. Use a 21-gauge needle.
3. Using a waste tube and the correct order of draw, collect 6 blue top tubes and 1 lavender top tube.
4. Immediately after collection, gently invert tubes several times to mix. Label patient tubes.
5. For the normal control, draw 4 blue top tubes from a healthy volunteer, following the same method as above. Label these tubes "CONTROL"
6. Transport the blood specimens to the laboratory at room temperature STAT.

For more information regarding this notice, please call Client Services at 866-941-4542.

jmh Mar-08