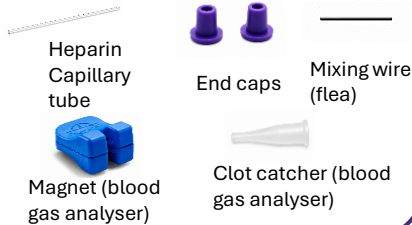


Capillary Collection and Sampling on Blood Gas Machine and i-STAT

Purpose: To ensure accurate collection, handling, and analysis of capillary blood samples for blood gas and i-STAT testing.

1

Assemble required products



2

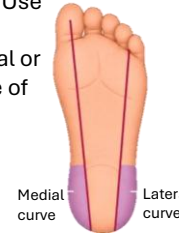
Identify the patient using approved patient identifiers according to your hospital policy prior to sample collection. Ensure the foot is warm and there is good blood flow.

3

Clean the puncture site with approved antiseptic and allow it to **air dry completely**. Do not blot or blow dry.

4

Grasp the foot gently. Use lancet to perform puncture on the medial or lateral plantar surface of the heel. **AVOID** the posterior curvature and central area of the heel to prevent injury.



5

Always wipe away first blood, as it may contain alcohol and tissue fluid.

6

Allow drop to form. Produce subsequent drops by gentle intermittent pressure. Avoid vigorous milking or heavy squeezing. If the blood flow stops, wipe with gauze.

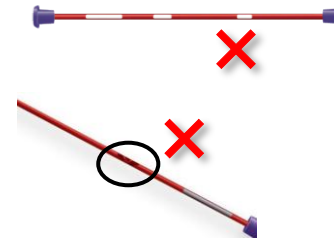
7

Place the end of the capillary tube against the drop, holding it **horizontally** to fill the tube. Keep air out by raising the opposite end of the tube **slightly** while waiting for the next drop to form.



8

Continue until the capillary tube is full. Inspect the tube for air bubbles and clots. **Air bubbles** (gaps) will introduce air into the sample and produce inaccurate results. **Clots** in the tube will cause sampling errors and may damage the Blood Gas Analyser. **Recollect sample if either are present.**



9

Insert mixing wire and apply caps firmly.



10

Mix the sample by slowly moving the mixing magnet 20 times along the full length of the tube, or by inverting 20 times if the magnet is unavailable.



11

Label your sample.



12

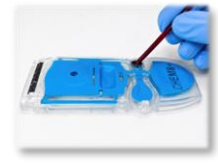
For Blood Gas Analyser:

1. Take your sample to the blood gas machine or i-STAT.
2. Mix again prior to testing.
3. Apply the clot catcher and test the sample as per Patient Test Procedure.



For i-STAT:

1. Dispense sample into i-STAT cartridge and run as per Patient Test Procedure.



Safety

This procedure involves the handling of human biological specimens. Staff must adhere to relevant safety protocol including the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment. Blood samples and used test cartridges must be disposed of in infectious waste bins.

References

SOP-COL-004 Capillary Collection

<https://www.radiometer.com.au/en-au/myradiometer/library/?ql=capillary%20tube&c=13#>

