

Capillary Collection

Possible Consequences:

- Excessive squeezing can cause increased hydraulic pressure in the capillaries, resulting in hemolysis of the sample.
- The use of a manual lancet, where the depth of the incision is not controlled, could also cause hemolysis.
- Note: Detection of hemolysis in capillary blood is not normally possible.

Do NOT “milk” the finger or heel by using excessive pressure (e.g., sliding your thumb along the skin).

Corrective Actions

- Use a lancet where the depth of the incision is controlled.
- Do not scoop up blood, which has been smeared or dribbled away from the puncture site, since partially coagulated blood may cause hemolysis.

References:

1. CLSI. *Collection of Capillary Blood Specimens*. 7th ed. CLSI Standard GP42. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2020.
2. CLSI. *Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens*. 7th ed. CLSI Standard GP41. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2017.
3. Comparison of hemolysis in blood samples collected using an automatic incision device and a manual lance. Kazmierczak SC, Robertson AF, Briley KP. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 2002;156:1072-1074.
4. Capillary blood sampling: National recommendations on behalf of the Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine. Krleza JL, Dorotic A, Grzunov A, Maradin. *Biochem Med* 2015;25:335-358.