

Location of Venipuncture

Factors and Their Possible Consequences:

Alternative sites to the antecubital area, such as hand veins, are fragile and easily traumatized.

Specimens collected by penetrating through a hematoma may cause erroneous test results.

- The median cubital vein in the antecubital fossa is most commonly used.
- Avoid areas close to a mastectomy, burned or scarred skin, or sites proximal to IV lines.

References:

1. CLSI. *Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens*. 7th ed. CLSI Standard GP41. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2017.
2. Baskin L, Chin A, Abdullah A, Naugler C. Errors in patient preparation, specimen collection, anticoagulant and preservative use: how to avoid such preanalytical errors. In: *Accurate Results in the Clinical Laboratory: A Guide to Error Detection and Correction*. Dasgupta A, Sepulveda JL, eds. Cambridge, MA: Elsevier, 2019.