

Poor Separator Barrier Integrity

Factors and Their Possible Consequences:

- Patient factors (e.g., the use of contrast media, elevated protein levels) can affect barrier formation, leading to contamination of serum or plasma with blood cells.
- If barrier is not well formed, some RBCs can move into the serum, causing hemolysis.

Ensure appropriate centrifugation conditions (g force, time and temperature).

Corrective Actions

- Ensure product storage at appropriate temperature
 - Check patient's history and diagnosis

References:

1. *Procedures for the Handling and Processing of Blood Specimens*; Approved Guideline 4th ed. CLSI document H18-A4. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2010.
2. Iodinated contrast media interfere with gel barrier formation in plasma and serum separator tubes. Spiritus T, Zaman Z, Desmet W. Clin Chem 2003;49:1187-1189.