Using the VetStat® Electrolyte and Blood Gas Analyzer

Sample Preparation

**Whole Blood:**
Using a Vital Signs lithium-heparin syringe or Drummond lithium-heparin capillary tube

1. Use the appropriate sample collection device.
2. Fill the capillary tube with 200 µl of whole blood.
3. Roll the capillary tube between your fingers to mix the sample.

**Whole Blood:**
Using an untreated syringe and a lithium-heparin collection tube

1. Use the appropriate sample collection device.
2. Use the appropriate tube.
3. Draw the sample gently.
4. Gently invert the sample for 30 seconds to mix it.
5. Remove the needle from a clean 1 ml syringe and aspirate a minimum of 0.2 cc of heparinized whole blood.

**Plasma**

1. Use the appropriate sample collection device.
2. Use the appropriate tube.
3. Draw the sample gently.
4. Gently invert the sample for 30 seconds to mix it.

**Serum**

1. Use the appropriate sample collection device.
2. Use the appropriate tube.
3. Draw the sample gently.
4. Allow the sample to clot for a minimum of 20 minutes.
5. Centrifuge the sample for at least 1,200 seconds at a minimum of 12,000 RCF. Refer to your centrifuge operator’s manual for centrifugation settings and times.

**Running a Test**

1. From the Home screen, swipe the sample cassette bar code.
2. Wipe both sides of the cassette with a lint-free wipe. Insert the cassette into the sample measurement chamber (SMC), and close the cover.
3. Enter the patient information and then tap Finish. NOTE: Patient information can be entered before, during or after the sample analysis.
4. Mix the patient sample and expel any air bubbles. Attach it to the sample cassette and tap OK.
5. Read the results.
6. Remove and discard the sample cassette. Close the SMC cover.

Quick Tips for Best Practices

- Use only lint-free wipes to wipe the sample cassette.
- Do not use EDTA or oxalate anticoagulants as these have significant affects on certain electrolyte and blood gas values.
- Avoid air bubbles in your samples as this will interfere with the sample analysis.
- Run the standard reference cassettes (level 1 or 3) daily. Running both levels is recommended.
- Run quality control monthly.

Tube colors may vary in regions outside of the U.S.

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