



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLOOD SMEAR TEST

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIN BLOOD SMEAR

Please read instructions completely before you begin.

**OBJECTIVE:** Making thin blood films

It is essential that slides used in making smear preparations be unscratched, non-corroded, and meticulously clean, free from grease, dust, acid, or alkali; that slides be handled by their edges; that the blood be taken as it exudes; that the process be done rapidly so as to prevent coagulation; and that smears be left to air dry in a horizontal position away from flies and dust.

**CAUTION:** It is advisable to be well hydrated before the test. If you have a phobia of blood, feel faint upon the sight of blood or have fainted in the past when having blood taken, then **do not** perform this test by yourself and ask your health practitioner to assist you.

You will need a piece of toilet paper, kitchen roll or ideally cotton wool or absorbent gauze for part of this test.

Review the following YouTube video of this preparation to see exactly what is required before reading the instructions:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyU9iz9d9QI&feature=player\\_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyU9iz9d9QI&feature=player_detailpage)

1. The fingertip to be pricked is cleaned with the 70% alcohol prep pad enclosed. Wait for the alcohol to dry.
2. After which, use the Sera-Sharp blood lancet to prick the end of the finger just cleaned.
3. Wipe the first drop off with absorbent cotton or gauze.
4. Place a small drop of blood on one of the permafrost slides (contains a white square) about one-half inch from the permafrost end. The size of the drop of blood and acuteness of the angle formed between the slides will determine the thickness of the film - a more acute angle resulting in a thicker film; we need thin films.
5. Take a second (regular) slide with no permafrost and place it on the surface of the first slide at about a 45° angle, as indicated below, and move it to the right until contact is made with the drop of blood (Fig. 1). The free end of permafrost slide may be supported by the third finger. As soon as it touches the blood, the latter will spread.
6. Now push the top slide toward the left, being careful to keep the edge pressed uniformly against the surface of the horizontal slide. In this way a thin smear with uninjured host cells and possible protozoans and /or microfilariae will be obtained.
7. Allow film to air dry thoroughly. Once dry, place back in the container.
8. Slides will be rejected if they are covered by another slide or coverslip. Repeat to make 2 more slides. Store in a cool place prior to shipping back to PCI Europe in the **packaging they arrived in**. Please ship back on Thursday via next day delivery to arrive with us on Friday

If you have any questions please contact us on [enquiries@parasitetesting.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parasitetesting.co.uk).

**Fig. 1** Method of thin blood film preparation: **A**, position of spreader slide; **B**, well-prepared thin film; arrows indicate area of slide used to observe accurate cell morphology.

