



Hemolysis can contaminate plasma or serum samples with zinc.
Reject samples with hemoglobin concentration of 1g/L or higher.
For tips to avoid hemolysis, see back of card or <http://www.izincg.org>



scan for more tips

Tips to reduce hemolysis during processing of blood samples:

blood draw

- Draw blood from the antecubital (front side of elbow) region of the arm if possible.
- Warm the blood draw site prior to venipuncture to increase blood flow.
- After cleaning venipuncture site with alcohol, allow area to dry completely.
- Use a needle no smaller than 21 gauge (adult) or 23 gauge (children) for blood draw.
- Use a new straight needle for blood draw, not existing catheters and lines.
- Do not "milk" or massage the venipuncture site during blood draw.
- Do not leave the tourniquet on for longer than one minute during blood draw.

blood processing

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for proper use of collection tubes for blood draws.
- For collection tubes with additives, add the recommended blood volume and avoid under-filling.
- For collection tubes that require mixing, invert tube gently and only for the recommended times.
- For collection tubes that do not require mixing, avoid inverting or agitating the blood.
- For collection tubes that require clotting, do not process the blood before recommended wait time.
- Do not centrifuge specimens at a higher speeds or longer times than recommended.
- If transferring blood to another tube, avoid applying pressure or agitation during transfer.
- Protect the blood specimens from light, heat, and agitation during storage and transit.
- Store at 2-6°C (never freeze) and minimize delay prior to processing whole blood to plasma or serum.