

Department:	Laboratory and Blood Bank (Haematology)		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Basic Performance for Performing Bleeding Time		
Applies To:	All Laboratory Staff		
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 Determination of the bleeding time is important as preparation evaluation investigations.
- 1.2 Establish system & set responsibilities for the work.
- 1.3 Elucidating the procedure of bleeding time test as a screening test for determination of platelets function.

2. DEFINITONS:

N/A

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 The Thrombosis Homeostasis Advisory Group recommends that bleeding times have a limited clinical utility, but in specific circumstances, such as von Willebrand's Disease, the bleeding time is still indicated
- 3.2 The procedure of bleeding time test as a screening test for determination of platelets function.
- 3.3 The manual way of evaluating the bleeding time.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Specimen
 - 4.1.1 Blood collected by Puncture.
- 4.2 Normal Range :
 - 4.2.1 Adult : 1 – 5 minutes.
- 4.3 Procedure:
 - 4.3.1 Place the sphygmomanometer cuff around the patients arm above the elbow, inflate to 40 mmHg and keep it at this pressure throughout the test.
 - 4.3.2 Clean the area of the forearm to be used with alcohol swab. Choose an area that is devoid of visible veins.
 - 4.3.3 Using a clean and sterile lancet, make two separate punctures about 3-5 cm apart. Start stopwatch.
 - 4.3.4 When bleeding has ceased, note time and apply band aid to punctures
 - 4.3.5 Average duplicate result and report in minutes and seconds
 - 4.3.6 Normal range:
 - 4.3.6.1 Children: 1-8 minutes.
 - 4.3.6.2 Adult; 1-6 minutes
 - 4.3.7 Interpretation the results: A prolonged bleeding time may be due to
 - 4.3.7.1 Thrombocytopenia.
 - 4.3.7.2 Disorder of platelets function
 - 4.3.7.3 Von willebrands disease due to defective platelet adherence to the sub endothelium in the absence von willebrand factor.
 - 4.3.7.4 Vascular abnormalities

- 4.3.7.5 Chemical interferences and in vivo effects: V Aspirin, alcohol, allopurinol, some antibiotics, anticoagulants, asparaginase, dextran, diltiazem hydrochloride, halothane, nifedipine, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, propranolol, streptokinase and urokinase, and valproic acid Desmopressin, epoetin (erythropoietin)
- 4.3.8 Limitations Of The Procedure:
 - 4.3.8.1 If thrombocytopenia is present, the bleeding time may be prolonged.
 - 4.3.8.2 Patient should not take aspirin or drugs affecting platelet function one week prior to testing.
- 4.3.9 Application Of Bleeding Time Test:
 - 4.3.9.1 Screening test for platelet disorders and in the prediction of the risk of bleeding in various hemorrhagic states.
 - 4.3.9.2 Monitoring the antithrombotic effect of drugs which impair platelet function
 - 4.3.9.3 Monitoring the effect of platelet transfusions in thrombocytopenic subjects

5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Sphygmomanometer Cuff
- 5.2 Alcohol Swab
- 5.3 Sterile Lancet
- 5.4 Filter Paper
- 5.5 Stopwatch.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 The assigned technician.
The BT is subject to many variables (constant blood pressure, length of incision, blotting technique). Only experienced individuals should perform the test; ideally the same individual/team should do the test for consistency

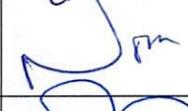
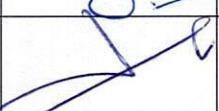
7. APPENDICES:

N/A

8. REFERENCES:

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9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Dr. Fatma Hassan Ahmed	Clinical Pathologist		January 07, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Kawther M. Abdou	Consultant & Lab. Medical Director		January 08, 2025
Reviewed by:	Ms. Noora Melfi Alanizi	Laboratory & Blood Bank Director		January 09, 2025
Reviewed by:	Mr. Abdulelah Ayed Al Mutairi	QM&PS Director		January 12, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Tamer Mohamed Naguib	Medical Director		January 12, 2025
Approved by:	Mr. Fahad Hazam Alshammari	Hospital Director		January 21, 2025