

## Instructions

- These instructions are for blood collected via venous puncture and collected in an EDTA tube.
- Place a label with the patient's name, birth date, or medical record number at the end of each slide.
- Gently invert EDTA tube several times before slide preparation to ensure proper mixing of blood.
- Allow both thick and thin smear slides to **COMPLETELY** dry before placing into their transport containers.

## Thick Smear Slide Preparation

1. Use a pipette to deliver a small drop (approximately 15–25  $\mu$ L) of blood onto a glass slide.

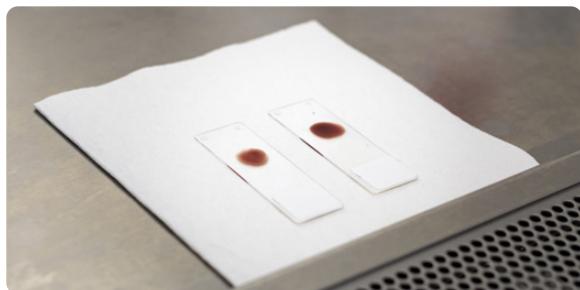


2. Use another glass slide to etch into the glass, distributing the blood into a circle ~1.5 cm (ie, dime size) in diameter.

**This step is very important as it ensures proper adherence of the blood to the slide.**



3. Allow the slide(s) to FULLY air dry. **Do not fix.** The slide should be dry within 1 hour.



## Thin Smear Slide Preparation

1. Using a pipette or other clean dispensing device, place a small drop of blood near the patient label.



2. Place the flat edge of another glass slide at a 45° angle in front of the drop of blood.



3. Gently pull back the slide and allow the blood to spread along the edge.



4. Push the top slide forward in a quick, fluid movement, pushing past the end of the slide, making a thin, curved, feathered edge.

