# HLS MODULE PHYSIOLOGY (LAB 2) BLOOD GROUPS & HEMOSTASIS TESTS

BY

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# Experiment 1 BLOOD GROUPS

- There are 2 systems used to determine blood groups:
- 1. The ABO system.
- 2. The Rhesus (Rh) system.

# 1. The ABO System

- ✓ Human blood can be classified into four major groups A, B, AB, O.
- ✓ The classification is based on the antigen nature of red blood cell membrane.
- ✓ The membranes of RBCs contain <u>antigens</u> called <u>agglutinogens</u>. The most important agglutinogens are A and B.
- ✓ While, plasma contains specific <u>antibodies</u> for red cells antigens. These antibodies are called <u>agglutinins</u>; α and β (alpha and beta).
- The blood of any person doesn't contain an agglutinogen (e.g A) and its corresponding agglutinin (anti-A; α), otherwise ...... Antigen – antibody reaction occurs which results in agglutination and hemolysis of RBCs.



Blood group	<b>RBCs membrane</b>	Plasma agglutinins	
	agglutinogens	(Antibodies)	
	(Antigens)		
Α	Α	Anti-B (β)	
В	В	Anti-A (α)	
AB	AB	None	
Ο	None	Anti-A & Anti-B	
		(α and β)	

- ✓ Group O is called universal donor (no agglutinogens and so no agglutination occurs when given).
- ✓ Group AB is called universal recipient (no agglutinins and so no agglutination occurs).
- <u>N.B.</u> Agglutination of RBCs occurs between the agglutinogens on the **RBCs of the donor's blood** and **agglutinins of the recipient's plasma** this is because agglutinins in the donor's plasma:
- 1. Markedly diluted by the recipient's plasma.
- 2. Markedly neutralized by free agglutinogens present in the recipient's blood (produced by the daily destruction of human RBCs).

Donor		Recipient	
Α		B	
A agglutinogen	×	B agglutinogen	
β agglutinin		α agglutinin	



ABO Type	Per Cent of population	
0	45%	
A	40%	
B	10%	
AB	5%	

## The possible transfusions among blood groups:

- ✓ Group AB is a universal recipient and gives only group AB.
- ✓ Group O is a universal donor and can receive blood only from group O.
- ✓ Group A can receive blood from groups A & O and gives blood to groups A & AB.
- ✓ Group B is can receive blood from groups B & O and gives blood to groups B & AB.

Blood Group	Antigens on cell	Antibodies in plasma	Transfuse with group
Α	A	Anti-B	A or O
В	В	Anti-A	B or O
AB	A and B	none	AB, A, B or O
Ο	None	Anti-A & Anti-B	Ο

# 2. The Rh System

**Rh factor (D antigen)** is an **agglutinogen** which was discovered on the RBCs of **Rhesus monkeys** (hence the name).

- It is present in RBCs of **85%** of people (called Rh positive "**Rh** +**ve**") and is absent in **15%** of people (called Rh negative "**Rh** -**ve**").
- Normally, there is no anti-Rh antibody (in either Rh –ve or +ve), **however**, it could be formed (Rh agglutinins are small sized, so they can cross the placenta) in the blood of Rh –ve persons **only by two methods:**
- 1. Blood transfusion from Rh +ve person to Rh –ve person.
- 2. Pregnancy of Rh –ve female with an Rh +ve baby.



**Importance of blood groups:** 

#### In blood transfusion ;

To avoid dangers of incompatibility.

#### In marriage ;

To avoid Rh incompatibility (erythroblastosis fetalis or hemolytic disease of the newly born).

# This is usually carried by slide technique:

- Three drops of blood under test are placed separately on a glass slide.
- A drop of Anti-A serum, a drop of Anti-B serum and a drop of Anti-D serum are added to the three blood drops.
- Anti-A serum is then mixed with the first drop while Anti-B serum is mixed with the second drop and Anti-D serum is mixed with the third one.
- After 2-3 minutes, the drops are examined for antigen antibody reaction (agglutination).

## Results :

- If agglutination occurs with Anti-A serum only → the subject is group A.
- If agglutination occur with Anti-B serum only → the subject is group B.
- If agglutination occurs with both sera → the subject is group AB.
- If no agglutination occurs with both sera → the subject is group O.
- If agglutination occurs with Anti-D serum → the subject is Rh positive.
- If no agglutination occurs with Anti-D serum → the subject is Rh negative.

#### **Blood group determination**

#### Blood being tested

Serum

Type AB (contains agglutinogens A and B)



Type B (contains agglutinogen B)



Type A (contains agglutinogen A)



Type O (contains no agglutinogens)





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Anti-A	Anti-B	Anti-D	Blood Group
Negative	Negative	Positive	O +ve
Positive	Negative	Negative	A -ve
Negative	Positive	Positive	B +ve
Positive	Positive	Negative	AB -ve



**O positive** 

# Experiment (2) (Hemostasis tests)

# 1- Bleeding time

**Definition:** It is the time between the start of bleeding from an injured small blood vessel until its complete stoppage without formation of a blood clot.

## Principle:

Determination of bleeding time tests the efficiency of hemostatic mechanisms other than blood clotting (vascular spasm and platelet plug formation).



# **Materials:**

- 1. Sterile, disposable lancet
- 2. Stopwatch
- 3. Filter paper
- 4. Alcohol pads
- 5. Gloves
- 6. Bandage







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# Procedure (Duke's method):

- Clean the tip of finger or earlobe with alcohol pad.
- Prick the fingertip or earlobe with the lancet.
- The oozing blood is removed by a filter paper every about 30 seconds.
- The time elapsing between the prick and stoppage of bleeding is recorded by a stopwatch.

# **DUKE'S METHOD**

- Easy to perform
- Requires minimal equipment
- Requirements-alcohol,sterile lancet,stopwatch,filter paper



# Duke Method

With the Duke method, the patient is pricked with a special needle or lancet, preferably on the earlobe or fingertip.

The prick is about 3–4 mm deep. The patient then wipes the blood every 30 seconds with a filter paper.



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#### Results:

## Normal bleeding time ranges between 1-4 minutes.

# Causes of prolonged bleeding time :

- Purpura: Thrombocytopenia (decrease in the number of platelets below 50,000/ microliter or cubic mm; mm<sup>3</sup>).
- 2. Vitamin C deficiency ( Scurvy).
- 3. von Willebrand disease (due to deficiency of vWF).
- 4. Prolonged use of aspirin.

#### 2- Clotting (Coagulation) time:

- It is the time needed for the blood to clot after withdrawal from the body (until fibrin thread is seen).
- It is measured from the time of blood withdrawal till a firm clot is formed.

#### Method:

Non-heparinized capillary tube method.

#### Principle:

It depends on the availability of the clotting factors required for blood clotting by the intrinsic pathway of prothrombin activator.

# **Materials**:

- 1- Sterile, disposable lancet
- 2- Non heparinized capillary tubes
- 3- Stopwatch
- 4- Alcohol pads
- 5- Gloves
- 6- Bandage







## **Procedure (Non-heparinized Capillary tube method):**

- 1. Sterilize the fingertip with alcohol, allow to dry and then prick with lancet.
- 2. The oozing blood is withdrawn into a long glass non- heparinized capillary tube.
- 3. Short pieces of the tube are broken every 0.5 (half) minute until threads of fibrin are seen between the two ends (clot is formed).
- 4. The time between blood withdrawal and clot formation is recorded using a stopwatch.





## Results:

- Normal clotting (coagulation) time ranges from 3-10 minutes. Causes of Prolonged clotting time:
- A severe liver disease ( in which most clotting factors are deficient).
- Vitamin K deficiency as in newborns, prolonged use of antibiotics, liver diseases and obstructive jaundice.
- Congenital abnormality as in : Hemophilia due to deficiency of factor
  VIII (A) or IX (B).
- Administration of anticoagulants.



This is a test of ...clotting (coagulation) time .....



This is a test of ...bleeding time.....

