
Procedure for Blood Analysis

1.0 Purpose - This procedure specifies the methods for performing blood analysis in forensic casework.

2.0 Scope - This procedure applies to those Forensic Scientists who have been released, to the extent of their training, to do blood analysis in forensic casework.

3.0 Definitions - N/A

4.0 Equipment, Materials and Reagents

- Ethyl alcohol, 200 proof, anhydrous, 99.5+ %
- Phenolphthalein (see QC procedure)
- 3 % hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) (see QC procedure)
- Whatman 55 mm filter papers/swabs
- Known blood stain
- Sterile disposable scissors or scalpel blade
- RSID kits which contain the test cards and universal buffer
- 1.5 mL centrifuge tube

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Visual examination.

5.1.1 If blood analysis is requested on an item, a visual examination shall be performed on that item to look for the presence of any reddish brown stains that the analyst, using his/her training and experience, determines could be blood. An area is a location on an item which can be localized (e.g. that which an arrow can be drawn to on a photograph). A general rubbing is a more general area on an item (e.g. a quadrant of a shirt or the handle of a knife.)

5.1.1.1 If the item is light in color (e.g. white or cream) so that potential bloodstains could be seen easily, but no stains are seen with visual inspection, no further testing is needed and shall be documented in the notes as such. Any item that is pink, red, or other similar color or has stains present that could obscure possible bloodstains shall undergo testing as directed in 5.1.1.2.

5.1.1.2 If the item is colored or patterned in such a way as to obscure a potential bloodstain from being visualized easily, a visual examination using the IR light may be performed. (Refer to Forensic Biology Procedure for the Use of an Alternate Light Source). If no stains are seen with either a visual examination or with the aid of the IR light then a general rubbing shall be made of the entire item and tested using the Kastle Meyer Test.

5.1.1.2.1 If blood examination is requested and the general rubbing is negative the notes shall reflect that a general rubbing was made and the item was negative.

5.1.1.2.2 If the general rubbing is positive, but no visible stain can be located, the notes shall reflect that a general rubbing was positive, but no stains were isolated.

5.1.1.3 If visualization techniques reveal potential bloodstains, a Kastle Meyer Test shall be performed on that item or stain in question. If multiple stains are present, the Forensic Scientist shall determine which stain or stains should be tested based upon his/her training and experience.

5.1.1.4 If a latent examination or touch DNA has been requested or if potential ridge detail is noted on the item in question, only a visual examination may be performed if it is determined that swabbing the item could compromise latent print or touch DNA processing.

5.1.2 Each stain that is tested shall be numbered. The results of each area tested shall be noted in worksheets as positive or negative. A photograph shall be taken as applicable (Refer to Procedure for Photographing Evidence).

5.1.3 If blood identification is not necessary to show a transfer of evidence, then no chemical testing is required. Examples would include:

- Shirt to be used as alternate standard (with obvious stains present)
- Fingernail swabs from homicide victim
- Clothes from homicide victim where exam request is touch DNA
- Vaginal swabs/underwear submitted in sexual assault case (without specific request)

5.2 Kastle Meyer Test

5.2.1 Rub the area to be tested with a folded piece of filter paper or a clean cotton swab.

5.2.2 Add the following reagents onto the filter paper or swab in order:

- 1-2 drops of ethanol (cover rubbed area).
- 1-2 drops of phenolphthalein (cover rubbed area). Wait 1-2 seconds to ensure no pink color change develops.
- 1-2 drops of 3 % H₂O₂ (cover rubbed area).

5.2.3 If a rubbing from a suspected area tests negative for KM and the analyst believes, as a result of his/her training and experience that there could be interference from the substrate or that the sample is of a low concentration, then further testing shall be done. Take a small cutting with a sterile disposable scissors or scalpel blade and place on a filter paper. Add the chemicals directly to the sample.

5.2.4 Results

5.2.4.1 A positive reaction is indicated by the development of a pink color within 5 seconds of adding the H₂O₂.

5.2.4.2 A negative result is indicated if no color change occurs within 5 seconds after the addition of H₂O₂. In all situations, a color change will eventually occur after the addition of H₂O₂. This color change does not indicate a positive reaction; therefore, any color changes that appear after 5 seconds should not be interpreted as a positive result.

5.2.4.3 An inconclusive result is indicated if a reaction occurs before the addition of the H₂O₂ or if color transfers from the item onto the filter paper or swab that interferes with the ability to

note a color change. If this occurs, a RSID blood test shall be performed if enough material is present to perform this test.

5.3 RSID-Blood Test

5.3.1 Procedure

- 5.3.1.1** Cut a small sample, approximately 0.5 cm² (depending on the concentration of the stain), from the evidence sample using sterile disposable scissors or a sterile scalpel blade and place the cutting into a 1.5 mL centrifuge tube.
- 5.3.1.2** Add a minimum of 150 µL, up to 1 mL, of RSID universal buffer to each sample and mix well. (The amount of buffer added will depend on the sample size; buffer should cover the sample completely.)
- 5.3.1.3** Allow the sample to extract for a minimum of 2 hours. For weaker or older samples, Forensic Scientists should use a larger quantity of material and/or an extended extraction time to include overnight (not to exceed 24 hours).
- 5.3.1.4** After completing the extraction process, pipette 100 µL of the extracted sample into the sample well on the RSID card.
- 5.3.1.5** Read and record the results of the card after 10 minutes. A second qualified analyst must perform a second read of the results.
- 5.3.1.6** A verification review shall be done in FA by the second analyst to record the results of the second read of the test card.

5.3.2 Results

- 5.3.2.1** A positive reaction will have two lines appear in the test window. One line will appear in the area marked "C" for control and one line will appear in the area marked "T" for test. A positive result may be recorded as soon as both of these lines appear, but after no longer than 10 minutes. The lines must be reddish in color.
- 5.3.2.2** If a line does not appear in the "T" area within 10 minutes, then the test is considered negative. A line must appear at the area marked "C" to ensure that the test is working properly.
- 5.3.2.3** If no line appears at the area marked "C," the test shall be repeated. If no line is seen in the "C" window in the repeated test, the Body Fluid Technical Leader shall be notified as soon as possible. Refer to Forensic Biology Section Administrative Policy and Procedure.

5.3.3 Requirements for testing - The RSID Blood Test shall be performed if human blood identification is requested specifically, species origin is in question, or the Kastle-Meyer test is inconclusive, as provided in **5.2.4.3**. The only exception would be if there is a limited amount of sample and DNA testing is requested.

5.4 Reporting guidelines – The results statements shall reflect only the work that is performed. Portions of the statements may be omitted to address the testing actually performed. This interpretation may include

or build upon one (1) or more of the following responses depending on the circumstances of the case and the nature of the examination.

5.4.1 This phrase shall be used when a negative result is indicated for a Kastle-Meyer Test.

Examination of a sample(s)/general rubbing(s) taken from _____ (Item(s) ____), using the Kastle-Meyer Test, failed to reveal chemical indications for the presence of blood.

5.4.2 This phrase shall be used when a positive result is indicated for a Kastle-Meyer Test.

Examination of a sample(s)/general rubbing(s) taken from _____ (Item(s) ____), using the Kastle-Meyer Test, gave chemical indications for the presence of blood.

5.4.3 This phrase shall be used when an inconclusive result is indicated for a Kastle-Meyer Test.

Examination of a sample(s)/general rubbing(s) taken from _____ (Item(s) ____), using the Kastle-Meyer Test, was performed. Due to possible interference of the substrate, no interpretable results were obtained.

5.4.4 This phrase shall be used if no confirmatory blood testing was done.

No confirmatory blood testing was performed.

5.4.5 This phrase shall be used if no confirmatory blood testing was done due to limited sample.

Due to the limited quantity of sample, no confirmatory blood testing was done.

5.4.6 This phrase shall be used when the confirmatory RSID blood test yields a negative result.

Further examination of the sample(s) taken from _____ (Item(s) ____), using the RSID Blood Test, failed to reveal the presence of human blood.

5.4.7 This phrase shall be used when the confirmatory RSID Blood Test yields a positive result.

Further examination of the sample(s) taken from _____ (Item(s) ____), using the RSID Blood Test, gave conclusive results for the presence of human blood.

5.4.8 This phrase shall be used when the confirmatory RSID Blood Test reads invalid.

Further examination of the sample(s) taken from _____ (Item (____)), using the RSID Blood Test, failed to give conclusive results for the presence of human blood.

5.4.9 This phrase shall be used when only a visual examination is performed for blood on a light colored substrate, no stains of interest are observed, and no chemical analysis is performed.

A visual examination of _____ (Item(s) _____) failed to reveal the presence of blood-like stains. No further chemical analysis was performed

5.5 Controls

5.5.1 Kastle-Meyer Controls: A known blood stain shall be used as a positive control and a clean filter paper or swab shall be used for a negative control. These controls shall be tested prior to analysis once each day this test is performed for each lot used and the results shall be recorded. The controls must react appropriately.

5.5.2 RSID-Blood Controls: A positive control (applicable body fluid standard), and a negative control (100 µL of universal buffer) shall be run with every case or every batch of cases and the results will be recorded. If a reddish line is seen in the negative control “T” area, the test shall be rerun. If a reddish line appears again in the negative control “T” area, the test shall be considered inconclusive. If this occurs, the Technical Leader shall be notified immediately.

6.0 Limitations – Limitations include, but are not limited to, the following: The Kastle-Meyer test is a presumptive test for the presence of blood. There are some substances that will cross-react giving a false positive. If a stain yields a positive result and the analyst suspects the result may be a false positive based on training and experience, the area may be rubbed with filter paper and placed in an incubator at 100 °C for 30 minutes. The filter paper shall then be tested as indicated in **5.2.2**. The result of this test shall be recorded in the FA worksheet.

7.0 Safety - See Safety documents.

8.0 References

Forensic Biology Section Body Fluid training documents

Forensic Biology Section Procedure for Aseptic Technique and Contamination Control

Forensic Biology Section Procedure for Calibration and Maintenance

Forensic Biology Section Procedure for the Use of an Alternate Light Source

9.0 Records - N/A

10.0 Attachments - N/A

Revision History		
Effective Date	Version Number	Reason
10/26/2012	1	Original Document - Combined Procedure for Kastle-Meyer test and RSID-blood portion of the RSID Procedure; added reporting guidelines and allowed for changes to be made by the Forensic Scientist to address the testing actually performed; 5.2.3 added requirement to perform RSID-blood testing.
02/01/2013	2	5.1.1 – added requirement for testing item with multiple stains present; 5.4.1 – added requirement for QC testing each lot used
02/15/2013	3	5.3.4, 5.3.5 – changed “no further confirmatory” to “no confirmatory” 6.0 – clarified wording
05/03/2013	4	5.3.3 – clarified wording
09/13/2013	5	5.1.1, 5.1.5 – clarified when general rubbings for Kastle-Meyer testing is performed
12/18/2013	6	Header – added issuing authority
08/29/2014	7	5.2.1.3 – add maximum extraction time; 5.2.2.3 – clarified wording; 5.2.2.4 – added RSID-reader procedure; 5.3.8 – added inconclusive results statement for RSID blood
02/27/2015	8	5.2.1.3 – adjusted minimum extraction time for consistency across all RSID tests; 5.2.2.4 – required RSID reader to be used for all tests; 5.3.6, 5.3.7, 5.3.8 – removed parentheses
12/28/2015	9	5.1.4 – clarified wording to ensure check for color change
04/06/2016	10	5.1 broken apart to include the visual examination as its own category and 5.2 was added for the Kastle Meyer test. 5.1.2 - photography requirement was added. 5.4.9 reporting guideline was added for a negative visual exam on light colored substrate 8 added reference to the Procedure for the Use of an alternate Light source
11/02/2017	11	5.3.1.5 added to require the need for a second analyst to read results 5.3.1.6 added to require the second analyst to record the results as a verification review in FA 5.3.2.4. the use of the RSID reader has been removed 5.4.6, 5.4.7, 5.4.8; remove and RSID reader from reporting guidelines
01/25/2019	12	5.1.1 – clarified area vs general rubbing; 5.1.1.1 – clarified light in color; 5.1.3 – added wording for no chemical testing required; 5.3.1.5, 5.3.1.6 – clarified wording