

Microtainer Specimen Collection Tips and Tricks

Follow the tips and tricks below to make microtainer specimen collection easier for you and your patients.

Reassure the child's guardian:

- Include the guardian by giving them very clear tasks.
- Be honest about the procedure, but don't elaborate on the difficulties. Remember, everyone in the room will feed from your energy and attitude about the procedure.



Distract the child during the procedure:



- Toddler, 1-3 years: Use stuffed animals, games, songs, counting, etc. Games that require the child to interact are best, such as pressing buttons, matching or finding. You can also use whatever comfort methods the guardian typically uses, such as a blanket, a specific song or watching a video on a phone. Introduce the distraction to the child during site prep so they are thoroughly engaged prior to the puncture.
- Preschool, 3-5 years: Try medical play such as using a teddy bear to demonstrate the procedure. Distract with games or songs.
- School age, over 5 years: Let them help set up equipment or do small tasks. Explain the procedure in simple terms. Be honest about the pain associated with the puncture and the time it will take to collect the specimen.

Collect the sample accurately:

- Thoroughly wash patient's hand with soap and warm water. Alcohol prep pads alone do not remove lead on the skin. Allow the skin to air dry. Please note that paper towels may contain lead contamination.
- Once washed, the finger or foot must not be allowed to come into contact with any surface (e.g., door, chair, countertop, or even the child's other fingers), except the gloved hand of the person performing the procedure.

- Use the middle or ring finger, slightly to one side of the center of the fingertip pad. Sides and tip of finger should be avoided.
- Hold the child's finger with your non-dominant hand between your thumb and index finger, in the fleshy space above the selected puncture site. Massage finger several times, avoiding contact with the selected puncture location.
- Place lancet blade perpendicular to the grooves of the fingertip, enabling the blood to form as a drop rather than run down the finger.
- Hold microtainer at an angle of 30 degrees below collection site and use the scoop on the microtainer to catch the blood drops while taking caution to not touch the skin. Fill to a minimum of 250 μ L level.



- Keep finger in downward position and gently massage it to maintain blood flow, but be careful not to squeeze. Squeezing will constrict blood flow and increase interstitial fluid. A gentle massage above the puncture site will allow blood to flow. Use intermittent gentle pressure, releasing pressure (while still holding child's finger) to allow blood to refill capillary beds in between drop collection.
- During difficult or slow collections, rotate or jiggle collection tube after each drop to facilitate blood contact with EDTA which will prevent hemolyzation.

Equipment tips and tricks:

Pull lavender cap straight off. It may require a little wiggling, but it is not a threaded cap.

Place lavender cap back on the tube by pressing firmly down until you hear a click. If it does not click all the way on, make sure the triangles on the inner cap are not hitting the triangles on the inner rim of the tube. Securely closing the tube prevents spillage and hemolyzing of the specimen during transport.

