



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH
CLUSTER
MATERNITY AND
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

Department:	Laboratory and Blood Bank		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Reading and Grading Agglutination Test Result		
Applies To:	All Blood Bank Staff		
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To ensure the reliability and reproducibility of the agglutination test results.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Rouleaux**; is the classic appearance of coin stacking of RBCs.
- 2.2 **Mixed field**; a pattern of small compact agglutinates in a background of numerous free red cells. Usually read microscopically.

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 Standardization of agglutination ensures the reliability and reproducibility of the agglutination test results.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 Macroscopic reading:

- 4.1.1 Gently shake the tube and disrupt the red cell button in the tube.
- 4.1.2 Observe the way that cells are dispersed from the red cell button.
- 4.1.3 Record reactivity by comparing the agglutinate and this reactivity should be assessed when the RBCs have been completely resuspended from the button.
- 4.1.4 It is difficult to distinguish reactions weaker than one (+) from the normal slight granular appearance of unagglutinated red cells in suspension. So, microscopic reading is recommended in these cases.
- 4.1.5 Serum overlying the centrifuged cell button must be inspected for hemolysis.
- 4.1.6 Both hemolysis and/or agglutination are considered as clinically significant reaction.
- 4.1.7 The character of agglutination should be noted and recorded whether loose, mixed-field or retractile.

4.2 Microscopic reading:

- 4.2.1 It is important not to overload the suspension with cells, and the method described below achieves this.
- 4.2.2 Lift the tube carefully from its rack without disturbing the button of sediment cells.
- 4.2.3 Holding the tube vertically, introduce a Pasteur pipette, with its tip cut at 90°, carefully draw up a column of supernatant about 1cm in length and then, without introducing an air bubble, draw up a 1-2 mm column of red cells on to a slide over an area of about 2 x 1 cm.

4.3 Grading the agglutination:

4.3.1	Symbol	Agglutination score	Description
	4+ or C (complete)	12	One solid agglutinate; cell button remains in one clump, macroscopically visible with clear background.
	3+	10	Several large agglutinates; cell button dislodges into several large clumps macroscopically visible with clear background.
	2+	8	Medium-size agglutinates, relatively clear background; Cell button dislodges into many medium-sized clumps, macroscopically visible with slightly cloudy background.
	1+	5	Small agglutinates, turbid background; cell button dislodges into finely granular clumps, macroscopically visible with red cloudy background.
	(+) or w (weak or trace)	3	Cell button dislodges into fine granules, only visible microscopically.
	-	0	No agglutination (Negative result); all cells free and evenly distributed.

4.3.2 Unless otherwise stated, an unequivocal manual tube reaction is defined as a grade 2 or greater.

4.4 Other types of reaction:

4.4.1	Symbol	Description
	Mixed field (MF)	Mixtures of agglutinated and unagglutinated red cells; a pattern of small compact agglutinates in a background of numerous free red cells. Usually read microscopically .
	Rouleaux (R)	Rouleaux: Red cells appear microscopically as a stack of coins.
	H	Complete hemolysis, no intact red cells.
	PH	Partial hemolysis with intact red cells present .

5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

5.1 Forms and Records:

N/A

5.2 Materials and equipment:

- 5.2.1 Glass slides
- 5.2.2 Tubes
- 5.2.3 Pasteur pipettes
- 5.2.4 Microscope

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Blood bank staff in the pre-transfusion areas .





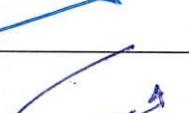

7. APPENDICES:

N/A

8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 The Unified Practical Procedure Manual for Blood Banks in The Arab Countries, 1434-2013.
- 8.2 The Standard Policy for Blood Banks in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1st edition, 1435-2014.
- 8.3 National Standards for Clinical laboratories and Blood Banks, 1st edition, 2015.
- 8.4 AABB Technical manual, 18th edition, 2014.
- 8.5 AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, 30th edition, 2016.
- 8.6 Mollison's Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine; 12th edition, 2014.
- 8.7 Modern Blood Banking & Transfusion Practices, 6th edition, 2012.

9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Dr. Mohammed Amer	Blood Bank Physician		January 06, 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 13, 2025
Approved by:	Mr. Fahad Hazam Alshammari	Hospital Director		January 20, 2025