Aim: Determination of bleeding time

REFERENCE: 1. Haematology, Practical Human Anatomy And Physiology, S.R. Kale et al., Nirali Prakashan, Eight Edition, 2002, pp. 45-46

DEFINITION: The bleeding time is required for a small cut to stop bleeding. When a blood vessel is injured, blood comes out for some time and stops because of the platelet plug formation. The duration of bleeding is the bleeding time. Normal value for bleeding time is 1-3 minutes.

Significance: The bleeding time is mainly used to diagnose and treat hemorrhagic diseases. The bleeding time is also useful just before operations such as tonsillectomy. In such cases, it may point out an abnormal bleeding process. This will make the physician to take proper precautions. The bleeding time may be performed by the Duke, Ivy, and Macfarlane Method.

REQUIREMENTS: Spirit, cotton, needle, filter or bloating paper, stopwatch.

PROCEDURE: Duke method for bleeding time:

1) The fingertip of the subject is sterilized with spirit and a bold prick is made with a sterile needle to have a free flow of blood.

2) The stopwatch is started, and time is recorded.

3) A piece of bloating paper is folded in half, and exactly at every 15-second interval, the blood coming out from the puncture is wiped.

4) The above step is repeated until blood ceases to flow.

5) The time at which blood ceased to flow is recorded.

6) The bleeding time is determined from the recorded time data.

REPORT: The bleeding time of the subject is found to be minutes.