

Aim: Determination of clotting time

REFERENCE: 1. Haematology, Practical Human Anatomy And Physiology, S.R. Kale et al., Nirali Prakashan, Eight Edition, 2002, pp. 32-33

Background Whenever a great blood vessel ruptures, bleeding continues. In a few minutes, blood loses its fluidity and sets into a semisolid mass. The mass is referred to as a clot, and the phenomenon is coagulation. Clotting time is defined as the time interval between the onset of bleeding and the appearance of semisolid mass, i.e. clot. Normal value of clotting time is 3-4 minutes. Clotting time is determined using two methods viz. Capillary glass method and Wright Coagulometer.

REQUIREMENTS: Spirit, cotton, needle, capillary tube, stopwatch.

PROCEDURE: Capillary glass method:

1. The fingertip of the subject is sterilized and a bold prick is made in the fingertip with a sterilized needle to have a free flow of blood.
2. The blood coming out of the puncture is sucked into a capillary glass tube 15 cm long.
3. Then the tube is kept undisturbed horizontally for about 1-2 minutes.
4. A small bit of the glass tube is broken off every 30 seconds until a fine thread of clotted blood appears while the capillary tube is broken.
5. When the thread appears, the stopwatch is stopped. This gave us the clotting time. The period between the appearance of blood in the finger and the formation of a clot was taken as clotting time.

REPORT: The clotting time of the subject was found to be..... minutes