Instructions for Drawing and Shipping a Blood Sample for Lymphocyte Storage or Transformation

Penno, MB ; Krueger, MP ; and Ray, TY. J. Tissue Culture Methods 15:43-48, 1993

Thank you for helping to obtain this blood sample. Please consider this a prescription to draw the patient's blood. In order for us to receive the sample in suitable condition for analysis, please follow the guidelines below.

Note: the blood draw should take place as early as possible in the day in order to arrange for an early federal express pick-up. This will ensure a priority overnight delivery to the lab.

1) Draw the blood into two 8.5 ml ACD (yellow top) vacutainer tubes provided. Note: Confirm that the tube contains ACD; some yellow topped tubes contain other preservatives. Fill each tube completely as the preservative contained within the tube is appropriate for a full volume. Collect blood directly into the vacutainer tube as this decreases the risk of contamination.

2) Use a 21 1/2 gauge vacutainer needle. Do not use small bore needles such as gauge 23 or 25 as they increase the chances of cell lysis. If you prefer to use a butterfly needle, please use a 21 gauge vacutainer.

3) Record the following on the tube:
(Note: Patient designations and numbers will be entered into our data base, so write clearly)

   Date of blood draw
   Patient designation (no names please)
   Patient number (no patient history numbers or social security numbers please)

   We suggest that the alphabetic code be 6 characters and that the numeric code is no more than 9 digits.

4) Blood should be shipped at room temperature (22°C - 24° C). Place each tube in a separate zip-lock bag or multi-tube styrofoam container. Place all tubes in a styrofoam container and seal with several wraps of tape.

5) Attach the express airbill to the outside of the package. Mark the "FedEx Priority Overnight" box on the airbill to have blood delivered by the next business morning. Contact Federal Express toll-free at 1-800-463-3339 to arrange for a pick-up.