



Client Communication

9200 Wall Street, Austin, TX 78754

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Specimen Collection and Preparation **Report Comment on Unspun Vacutainer® SST™ Samples**

In a continuing effort to ensure the quality of all specimens received for testing, we would like to remind our clients of the necessity of proper centrifugation of specimens submitted in serum separator tubes (SSTs).

It is essential that the serum in a blood specimen be separated from the cells within 2 hours of collection. However, the blood specimen must be allowed to properly clot prior to centrifugation. Please adhere to the following procedure:

1. SST tubes must properly clot prior to centrifugation in an upright position for **30 minutes**. Centrifugation is required **within 2 hours**.
2. Centrifuge tubes for 15 minutes when using an angle head centrifuge. If the centrifuge does not have a timer, watch time carefully to avoid over or under centrifuging. NOTE: Do not re-centrifuge specimens in the SST™ tubes after the initial spin.
3. If you are collecting the specimens, you are responsible for proper processing.

Prolonged unspun SSTs will artificially increase potassium and LDH and decrease glucose. The effect of delayed centrifugation can affect a broad variety of other lab tests. **The laboratory will begin adding a comment to the report for various analytes disclosing the possibility that results may be affected by improper handling based on Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute guidelines*.**

(* Kiechle FL et. al. Procedures for the Handling and Processing of Blood Specimens for Common Laboratory Tests-Fourth Edition Vol. 30, No. 10, CLSI May 2010)

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