

## **Top Tips for Thrombotest**

To ensure you always get accurate, reliable results from Thrombotest, it is important to follow the method provided. Here are some top tips designed to help you obtain the quality of results you expect from your INR testing.

### **Reconstituting Thrombotest**

- Read the pack insert! This can also be found [here](#)
- Always ensure that both the Thrombotest reagent and the 3.2 mmol/L calcium chloride (or water) are at **room temperature** before commencing
- The 3.2 mmol/L calcium chloride (or water) should be measured accurately, with a pipette
- Add the 3.2 mmol/L calcium chloride (or water) to the Thrombotest in **no more than** three pipetting steps (eg 4 ml + 4 ml + 3 ml)
- Once the 3.2 mmol/L calcium chloride (or water) has been added to the Thrombotest, replace the cap and **shake vigorously**
- Leave the vial to stand for **5 minutes** before use

### **Storing Thrombotest**

- Reconstituted Thrombotest can be stored as follows:
  - **37°C for 1 hour**
  - **20°C for 10 hours**
  - **2 - 8°C for 3 days**
  - **≤ -18°C for 2 months**
- Frozen Thrombotest **must** be thawed at 37°C. This will take at least 10 minutes in a water bath, or 15 minutes in a heating block. Please **do not** thaw the reagent at room temperature
- For convenience, Thrombotest may be dispensed into cuvettes prior to freezing, but please **do not** add the steel balls before doing so

### **Use of Controls**

- It is recommended that both **Normal and AK** controls are run at the beginning of every day, or every clinic

### **Reconstituting Controls**

- Controls should always be reconstituted in distilled water
- For capillary samples, it is recommended that controls should be reconstituted with **0.9 ml** of distilled water
- Once reconstituted, the vial should be **mixed gently**
- Leave the vial to stand for **15 minutes** before use
- Use 50  $\mu$ L of control material

### Storing Controls

- Reconstituted controls can be stored as follows
  - **15 - 25°C for 8 hours**
  - **2 - 8°C for 8 hours**
  - **-20°C for 1 week (vials can only be frozen once)**

### Capillary Sampling

- Please **do not** use cotton wool before sampling because it initiates coagulation
- Always use the first drops of capillary blood
- Test the sample **immediately**
- Please be aware of the effect of haematocrit on the result in patients with severe anaemia or polycythemia (see pack insert for more information)

### Results

- Please ensure that the correct tables are selected from the Thrombotest box – either the one for manual testing, or the one for tests run on Thrombotrack instruments
- When using Thrombotracks, please check that the correct **MNPT** and **ISI** values have been programmed into the instrument. These can be found on the appropriate table in the Thrombotest box
- Control values should be compared to the table provided in the control box. Please use the range for '**Thromotest 50  $\mu$ L WHO**'

### **'No Ball' error messages (Thrombotrack instruments)**

- Check that the steel balls have not become magnetised. Steel balls should be stored away from computers, fridges, freezers etc
- Check that the test cuvette is firmly seated in the test chamber. Please ensure that there is no debris in the test chamber (particularly stray steel balls!)
- Please make sure that you are using the correct cuvettes for your instrument. Single cuvettes can be used on all Thrombotrack instruments; racked cuvettes should only be used on the Select 2 model. If racked cuvettes are used, please break them apart carefully to avoid any plastic spurs, which can be sharp and may stop the cuvette seating firmly in the test chamber of the instrument
- Please store cuvettes in clean conditions, preferably in a lidded container, to avoid dust settling inside them
- If frozen Thrombotest is used, please make sure that it is frozen **without** steel balls
- Please pipette Thrombotest reagent into the cuvettes carefully, to avoid the production of excessive bubbles