



Alere Determine™ HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab Combo Fingerstick Procedure Guide

Materials required and provided with the kit:

- Alere Determine HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab Combo
- Disposable Capillary Tubes

Materials required but not provided:

- Sterile lancet capable of producing 50 µL of blood
- Disposable gloves
- Gauze
- Sterile antiseptic wipe or alcohol

Materials available as an accessory to the kit:

- **Fingerstick Sample Collection Kit (Catalog# 2604US199)**
Includes: 100 Sterile Safety Lancets, 100 Adhesive Bandages, 100 Ethanol Swabs, and 100 Gauze Pads

Identify proper fingerstick location

- 1 The proper location for performing a fingerstick is on the **third or fourth finger of the non-dominant hand**, between the dotted lines as shown. The puncture should be made **just off-center** and **across the ridges** of the fingerprint. A puncture parallel to the ridges can make the blood run down the ridges, hampering collection. The off-center position will also help to avoid calluses.



Prior to performing the fingerstick

- 2 To optimize whole blood circulation, warm the hand by washing in warm water (or holding it in a heating pad or hand warmer), and massage the finger with a downward motion several times. Lowering the hand below heart level before collection may also help with improving blood flow.
- 3 Clean the finger of the person being tested with an antiseptic wipe. Allow the finger to dry thoroughly or wipe dry with a sterile gauze pad.



Perform fingerstick

- 4 It is recommended to use a sterile 2.0mm x 1.5mm blade lancet capable of producing 50 µL of blood, as shown here. Holding the lancet safely between your fingers, position the blade just off the center of the finger pad as shown in step 1. After the lancet is in the proper location on the finger, make the puncture quickly.



Perform fingerstick (cont.)

- 5 A drop of blood appears at the puncture site. Wipe away the first drop of blood - which may contain tissue fluid - with gauze.



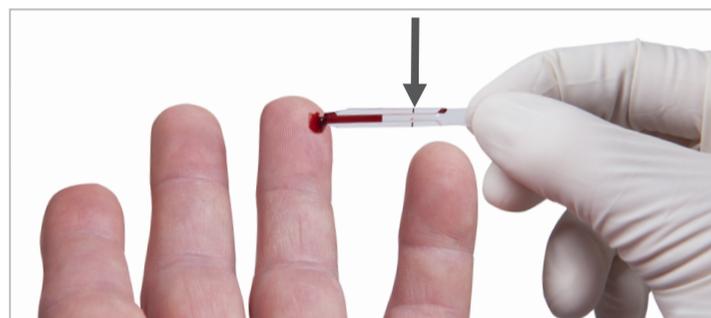
- 6 Quickly express blood down the fingertip by gently squeezing across the entire finger, to the last joint (not to the end of the fingertip). Do not squeeze or "milk" the fingertip to accelerate bleeding. Wait for a large drop to form before beginning collection. If a clot begins, wipe the finger clean.



Collect an adequate sample volume

- 7 Collect the second drop of blood by holding the capillary tube **horizontally**, and touch the tip of the capillary tube to the blood sample.

Note: Filling of the capillary is automatic – do NOT squeeze the bulb while sampling. Maintain this position until the flow of the sample has reached the fill line and stopped. Do not scrape or hold directly above/below the drop.



Add sample to the test strip

- 8 Touch the tip of the Capillary Tube containing the blood sample to the Sample Pad and gently squeeze the bulb. Avoid air bubbles. Wait until all the blood is transferred from the Capillary Tube to the Sample Pad.

Caution: Do not lift the Capillary Tube from the Sample Pad until all of the blood has been transferred – a bubble may form which will prevent the complete transfer of sample. If a sample won't expel, cover the small opening at the mark on the capillary with a gloved finger. Then squeeze the bulb until the sample is fully dispensed onto the Sample Pad.



Refer to the package insert for complete instructions.

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For training purposes

It is recommended to practice at least three (3) fingersticks before performing on a patient. If you have any questions, ask your office expert for fingerstick and bleeding tips. Keep in mind there will be low volume bleeders; you should be prepared for sticks that take extra time in collection.

IMPORTANT: Dispose of all used gauze, pipettes, alcohol wipes, gloves, lancets and any other materials that may have come in contact with bodily fluids in appropriate biohazard or sharps waste containers.