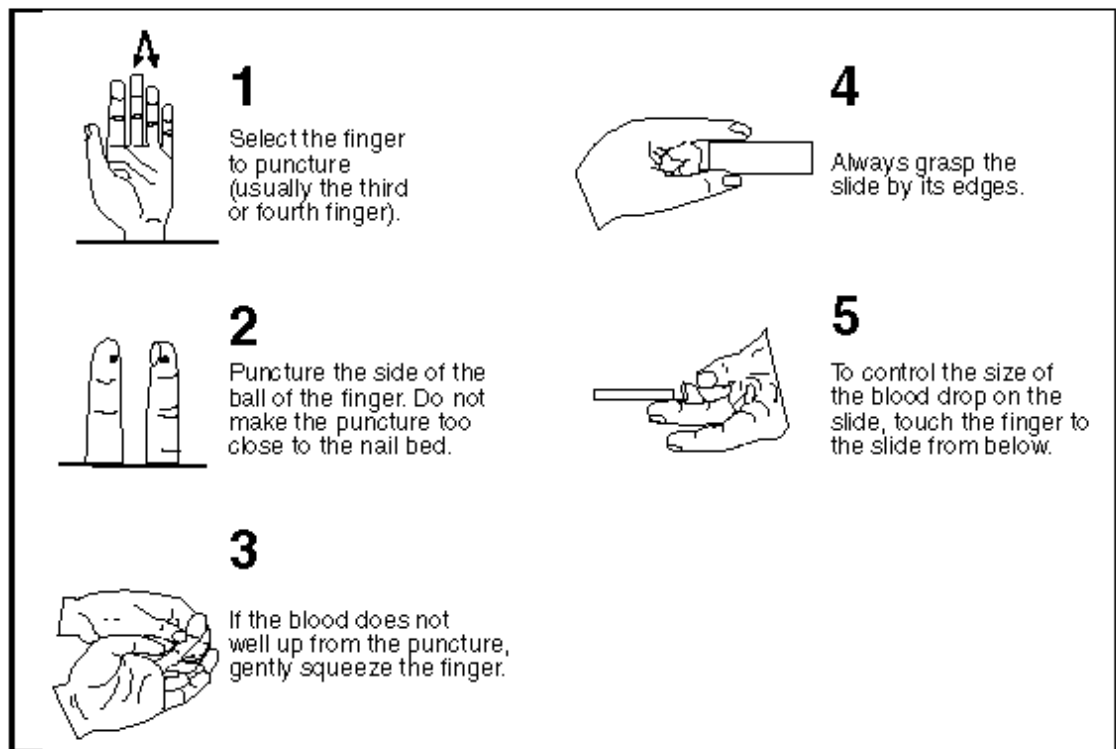


Blood Smear Preparation:

1. If you are using venous blood, blood smears should be prepared as immediately after collection or no more than 2 hours later, delay can result in changes in parasite morphology and staining characteristics.
2. Use the method listed below for collection of thin and thick blood film.
3. Prepare at least 2 smears per patient

FIGURE A-1. Blood collection for thin or thick blood film



4. **Thick smears** preparation: Prepare 2 slides per patient
 - a. place a small drop of blood in the center of the pre-cleaned, labeled slide
 - b. Using the corner of another slide or an applicator stick, spread the drop in a circular pattern until it is the size of a dime (1.5 cm²)
 - c. A thick smear of proper density is on which, if placed (wet) over newsprint, allows you to barely read the words
 - d. Lay the slides flat and allow smear to dry thoroughly (protect from dust and insects).
 - e. Insufficiently dried smears (and/or smears that are too thick) can

detach from the slides during staining.

- a. Dry slides @ room temperature a minimum of 30 minutes, however, drying can take several hours.
- b. Accelerated drying is accomplished using a fan or hair dryer (set on cool).
- c. Protect thick smears from hot environments to prevent heat-fixing the smear.
5. **Thin Smears:** Prepare at least 2 smears per patient
 - a. Use the procedure shown on page 91 for blood collection.
 - b. Place a small drop of blood on the pre-cleaned, labeled slide

(see A

below).

- c. Bring another slide at a 30-45° angle up to the drop, allowing the drop to spread along the contact line of the 2 slides (see B below).
- d. Quickly push the upper (spreader) slide toward the unfrosted end of the lower slide (see C below).
- e. Make sure the smears have a good feathered edge (see D below).

- a. Allow thin smear to dry @ room temperature a minimum of 30 minutes.
- b. Fix the smears by dipping them in absolute methanol.

