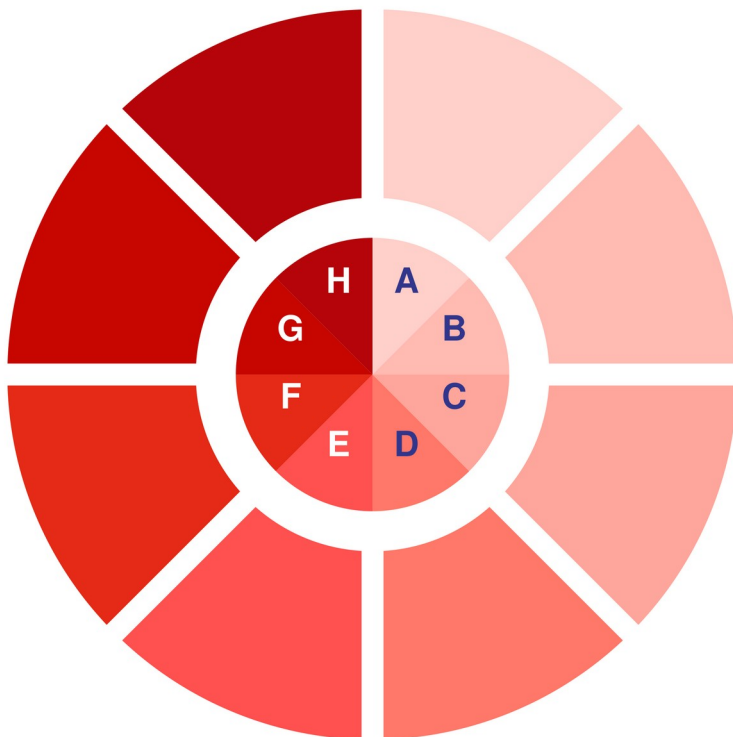


HAEMOLYSIS ASSESSMENT

VISUAL SCALE · PACKED RED BLOOD CELLS

Lay the centrifuged capillary in a white slot and read the supernatant against the segment on either side, under natural light or neutral illumination.



UNIT CAN BE USED

A B C D

Transfuse now. Record the reading against the LOT.

DO NOT USE — DISCARD

E F G H

Discard the unit and tell OneBlood the same day.

HAEMOLYSIS ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION PROTOCOL



ASSESS BEFORE TRANSFUSING WHEN

- the unit has been stored for more than **28 days** from donation;
- there has been a **break in the cold chain**, an equipment or power failure, or any recorded temperature excursion;
- the unit has an **abnormal macroscopic appearance** — discolouration, clots, cloudiness, or a dark supernatant visible through the bag.

HOW TO DO IT

1. Mix the unit by inverting it gently several times for about **10 seconds**.
2. Take a sample from **inside the bag** — never the segment tubing. The unit is open from this moment: transfuse now or discard.
3. Discard the **first 10 drops**.
4. Fill a **microhaematocrit capillary**.
5. Centrifuge at **5 000 rpm for 10 minutes**.
6. Lay the capillary in one of the **white slots** on the scale.
7. Under **natural light or neutral illumination**, match the colour of the **supernatant** to the nearest segment.

INTERPRETING THE RESULT

A – D

UNIT CAN BE USED — transfuse now.

E – H

DO NOT USE — DISCARD THE UNIT.

This is a quality-control check, carried out on a unit already selected for immediate transfusion. A unit reading E, F, G or H is discarded, not stored. Once sampled the unit is open: discard it as clinical waste. Never transfuse while the result is in doubt.

Reference values A–H: FFCFC9 · FFBA2 · FFA69C · FF7869 · FF514F · E52A17 · C70600 · B5050B. Check a printed card against these; reprint if they do not match.

Ferreira RRF et al. *In vitro* hemolysis of stored units of canine packed red blood cells. J Vet Emerg Crit Care 2018. · Blasi Brugué C et al. *In vitro* quality control analysis after processing and during storage of feline packed red blood cells units. BMC Vet Res 2018;14:141.