

Platelet Aggregation - *drawing guide*

(Please follow these guidelines when scheduling and drawing patients for platelet aggregation testing.)

1. Platelet aggregations testing must be scheduled with Machaon's clotting lab prior to drawing the patient.
2. Patient must be fasting for a minimum of 6 hours; therefore, morning blood draws are recommended.
3. Patient's platelet count and hematocrit must be entered on the Machaon Diagnostics' requisition form.
4. Patients with low platelet counts ($<100,000/\mu\text{L}$) may need additional sample volumes drawn. (Please call lab for guidance.)
5. Patients with high hematocrits ($>45\%$) may need additional sample volumes drawn. (Please call lab for guidance.)
6. Patient should not have taken aspirin (Bufferin, Alka Seltzer, etc.) for the last 10 days, and should not have taken ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, Excedrin, IB, Nuparin, Provel, Rufen, etc.) or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for the last 3 days. (Please see platelet aggregation patient question form.)
7. (IMPORTANT: Consult referring physician before recommending that any patient stop taking these drugs if they have been instructed to do so by a physician.)
8. Machaon Diagnostics must receive platelet aggregation samples within 1 hour of the venipuncture. (Please call the lab for a courier recommendation.)
9. Please send a 25 - 30mL citrated whole blood [6-well mixed 5mL sodium citrate tubes of whole blood] at room temperature; no processing is needed. (Please phone lab for minimum volumes.)
10. Machaon Diagnostics performs platelet aggregation studies daily.