Bleeding Time

Bleeding Time

- **Bleeding time is a test of platelet function.**

- **The time it takes for bleeding to stop (time for a platelet plug to form).**

- **The template bleeding time is used when the test is performed by standard template method.**

Materials

- **Alcohol swabs.**
- **Filter paper.**
- **A stop-watch.**
- **A stylette to prick an ear lobe.**
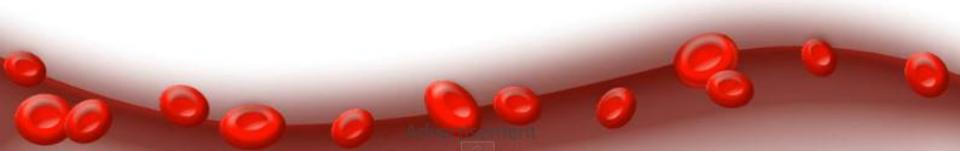
Procedure

- Clean the lobe of the ear with an alcohol swab.

- When it is dry, make a single puncture with a stylette (about 3mm deep).

- Note the time at which the puncture is made.

- The skin of the ear should not be touched once the puncture has been made until the experiment is over.
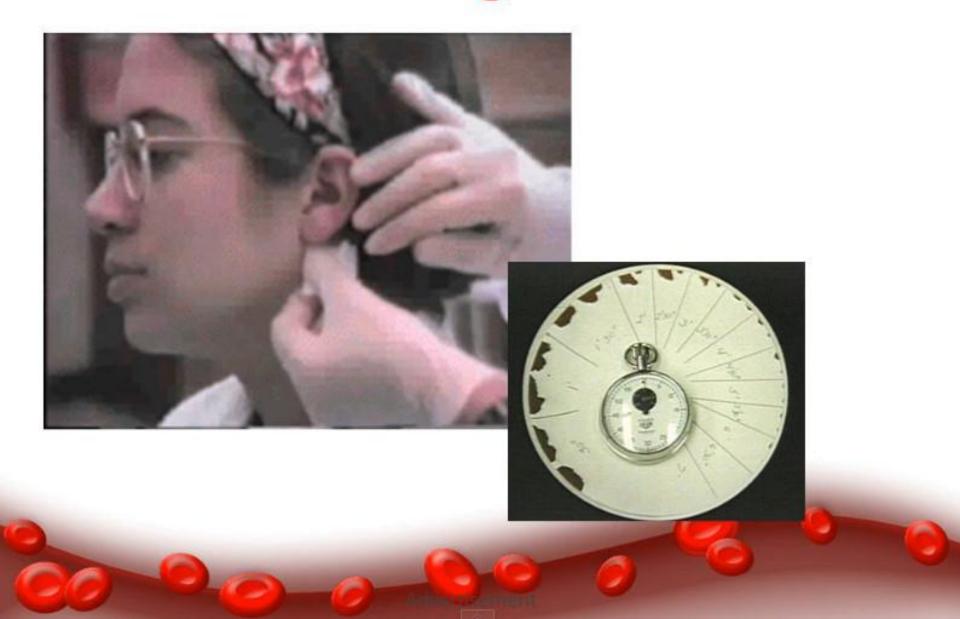
Procedure cont....

- **Apply a piece of filter paper to the blood-drop every 30 seconds until the bleeding stops.**

- **The bleeding time estimated by this method of a normal subject is:**

  2-5 minutes.

Bleeding Time

The Standardized Template Method

- A **sphygmomanometer cuff** is applied to the subject's arm and inflated to 40mmHg.

- The volar surface is cleaned with 70% alcohol.

- A sterile metal template with a linear slit (11mm long) is pressed firmly against the skin.

- A scalpel blade, with a guard, is carefully introduced so that it protrudes 1mm through the template slit. An incision, 1mm deep and 9mm long can then be made.

- Blood is gently, but completely removed with filter paper at 15 second intervals until the bleeding stops.

- Normal bleeding times determined with this method are in the range **2.5-9.5 minutes**.

The Standardized Template Method

Note

- **If the bleeding time exceeds 15 minutes:**
  - stop the procedure.
  - apply pressure to stop the bleeding.
  - report as greater than 15 min.

Clinical Application

Bleeding time is prolonged in the following conditions:

- **Platelet dysfunction.**

- Blood vessel wall disorders.

- Haemophilia.

- Von Willebrand Disease.

- Thrombocytopenia.

- Vitamin K deficiency.

- Medications: Aspirin.

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