**Purpose**: To provide a technique to resolve ABO discrepancies due to rouleaux formation. Patient serum with altered protein proportions, abnormal proteins or high concentrations of fibrin may cause rouleaux formation that resembles true agglutination.

**Procedure:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step** | **Action** | **Related Documents Title** |
| **1.** | * Confirm sample for acceptability per established procedures.
 |  |
| **2.**  | * Repeat ABO/Rh manual tube method if not already done.
 | * ABO/D by Tube Method
 |
| **3.** | * If ABO discrepancy is not resolved, proceed to step 4.
 |  |
| **4.** | * Centrifuge the tubes containing patient serum. Do not resuspend the cells.
 |  |
| **5.** | * Use a disposable transfer pipet to draw the supernatant serum and discard.
 |  |
| **6.** | * Add two drops of **0.85%** saline to each tube.
 |  |
| **7.** | * Gently resuspend and observe macroscopically for agglutination.
 |  |
| **8.** | * Grade and record results.
 | * Reading and Grading Tube Hemagglutination Reactions
 |
| **9.**  | **Interpret results as follows:** | * ABO Discrepancy Resolution
 |
| * No agglutination
 | * Rouleaux formation
 |
| * Agglutination
 | * True agglutination not due to rouleaux
 |
| **10.** | * If discrepancy resolved by saline replacement technique, result ABO/Rh and place BBC in the BAD file
 |  |

**References:**

AABB Technical Manual, Current Edition.