**Purpose:**

This procedure provides instructions for preparing 3-5% suspension of red blood cells for Hem-agglutination tube testing methods.

**Procedure:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Action** | **Related Documents**  |
| **1** | * Dispense approximately 1 inch of 0.9% saline into a labelled tube.
 | Labelling Tubes for Manual Bench |
| **2** | * Add one drop of patient or donor cells from a packed source.
 |   |
| * ***NOTE****: Steps 1 and 2 can be performed in reverse order*
 |
| **3** | * Mix the tube contents gently with a transfer pipet.
 |   |
| **4** | * Compare the suspension to the A1 or B reagent red cells for color intensity (3 – 3.4% red cell suspension).
 |  |
| **5** | * If suspension is lighter than the reagent cells:
	+ Add additional patient/donor cells OR
	+ Spin tube and remove saline.
	+ Mix and repeat step 4.
 |   |
| **6** | * If suspension is heavier than the reagent cells,
* Add additional saline
* Mix and repeat step 4.
 |  |
| **7** | * In the first reaction tube, examine the size of the cell button to confirm the suspension is within range.
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| **8** | * If cell button is too large or too small:
* Discard test tubes
* Adjust the cell suspension as in step 5 or step 6.
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**References:**

AABB Tech manual, Current Edition.

Judd’s Methods in Immunohematology, Current Edition.