

- Note the size, consistency of the clot and the nature of retraction (normal or reduced).
- Continue observation of clot for 72 hours to assess the clot lysis.

Normal value: Normal clot retraction shows more than 50% of serum separated at the end of 24 hours. A normal clot is firm, rubbery, elastic and not easily broken.

Interpretation: Absent or reduced clot retraction is seen in:

- Fibrinogen deficiency (congenital or acquired)
- Thrombocytopenia
- Thrombasthenia.

TESTS FOR PLATELET AND VASCULAR COMPONENT

Capillary Fragility Test (Hess test/tourniquet test)

Principle: It measures the ability of capillaries to withstand the increased stress.

Procedure

- Sphygmomanometer cuff is tied to the upper arm above the elbow and the cuff is inflated to 80 mm for 5 minutes.
- Release the pressure after 5 minutes.
- The number of petechiae present in a circle of 5 cm diameter on the flexor aspect of forearm (below the bend of the elbow) is noted.

Normal: 0 to 5 petechiae.

Interpretation: Positive test is indicated by more than 10 petechiae and is found in:

- Vessel wall abnormalities:
 - Vascular purpura
 - Scurvy
- Platelet disorders:
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Defective platelet function.

Bleeding Time (BT)

Bleeding time is used as screening test for disorders of platelet-vessel wall interactions. It measures the time required for bleeding to stop after a standardized superficial cut of the skin capillary bed.

Methods

- Duke's method-obsolete
- Ivy's method
- Template method (method of choice).