Equipment for Performing Capillary Puncture Procedures

Capillary Blood Gas Equipment

Equipment necessary for performing a proper basic capillary puncture:

- Employee identification badge
- Requisition
- Hand cleaning substances (sanitizer or soap & water)
- Well-fitting gloves (be aware of latex allergy or need for double gloving)
- Antiseptic for cleaning the location
- Device for warming the selected location
- Lancet with safety feature
- Collection device such as microcollection containers, microhematocrit tubes w/sealant
- Sterile 2x2 or 4x4 gauze pads
- Labeled biohazardous sharps container
- Permanent pen for marking label
- Bandage
- Microscope slides

There are many tests that can be performed utilizing the capillary puncture method. One of them, a procedure known as Capillary Blood Gas (CBG) collections, can be conducted although this is not the preferred method to do so. This procedure is almost never used on older children and adults, as it may allow some level of air exposure to the specimen that could potentially alter the results.
Equipment for Capillary Blood Gas collection is similar to standard equipment for basic capillary punctures with the exception of the devices used to collect the specimen and a more ridged cleansing of the puncture location.

- Employee identification badge
- Requisition
- Hand cleaning substances (sanitizer or soap & water)
- Well-fitting gloves (be aware of latex allergy or need for double gloving)
- Antiseptic for cleaning the location
- Device for warming the selected location
- Lancet with safety feature
- Capillary blood gas collection tubes
- Capillary tubes with caps
- Stirring bar or metal filings
- Magnet
- Sterile 2x2 or 4x4 gauze pads
- Labeled biohazardous sharps container
- Permanent pen for marking label
- Bandage

There are a four items in particular to define with a little more detail.

- **Capillary Blood Gas Tubes**: these are narrow, hollow tubes of various volume accommodations with a color band along the side of the tube letting the phlebotomist know what type of additive is present within the tube.
• **Stirrers:** sometimes called “fleas”, these small metal fillings or bars are placed in the collection tube following the specimen draw to assist in the mixing process of an anticoagulant.

• **Magnet:** used to assist in the mixing of a specimen, the magnet is fitted over the outside of the capillary tube that has been sealed at both ends and is moved from end to end of the tube pulling the “fleas” (located inside the tube) along with it blending the anticoagulant.

• **Plastic Caps:** Most capillary blood gas tubes will come supplied with their own caps that will aid in maintaining an anaerobic environment for the specimen.