

## Notes on Blood Collection

Blood Collection Room, Clinical Laboratory, the University of Tokyo Hospital

### "Blood Collection": Procedure for Blood Testing

Blood collection is necessary to diagnose the disease and assess the condition.

Blood is collected for testing.

Blood collection is basically a safe procedure, but complications may occur however rare they may be. Blood collection is recommended by the doctors if they consider that the medical data obtained by blood collection is worth taking the risk of blood collection.

Please understand such importance and risk of "blood collection" before you have your blood collected.

For details about complications accompanying blood collection, see "Complications Accompanying Blood Collection" on the back of this sheet or notice board in front of the blood collection room of Clinical Laboratory.



### Notes for Outpatients Who Have Their Blood Collected at the Blood Collection Room of Clinical Laboratory

Following matters are checked at the clinical laboratory to collect blood safely and correctly:

#### **Identity verification:**

To avoid patient misidentification upon blood collection, we verify the patients' identity by asking them to state their names.

**If any of the following applies to you, please report it to the hospital staff in charge of blood collection.**

- Do you feel sick during blood collection?
- Are you allergic to any disinfectant (alcohol) or gloves (such as latex)?

- Are you undergoing hemodialysis?
- Have you had your breast surgically removed?
- Do you have any request or uncertainty about the blood collection?

Please understand that patients' cooperation is required for drawing blood smoothly.

For inquiries or any uncertainty, please contact the hospital staff.

At the blood collection room of Clinical Laboratory, "medical technologists" and "nurses" with national certifications collect blood.

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## Complications Accompanying Blood Collection

“Blood collection” is basically a safe procedure, in which complications are very rare and mostly mild.

However, in very rare cases, following health problems have been reported.



### **Uncontrollable Bleeding / Ecchymoma:**

This is mainly caused by insufficient hemorrhage control after needling. Please apply the tourniquet astringent firmly.

### **Allergy:**

Some patients may experience allergic symptoms by the disinfectant, hospital staff's (latex) gloves, or other items used for blood collection.

### **Nerve Damage:**

Pain or numbness in fingers persists even long after blood collection. This is said to occur approximately once in 10,000 to 100,000 injections. It is not possible to completely prevent nerve damage, because the state of the nerve fibers near the outer layer of the skin varies greatly between individuals. Nonetheless, ruptures of thick nerve fibers are rare and mostly mild and temporary.

### **Vasovagal Response:**

This tends to occur when the patient is nervous and anxious, even before blood collection. The nerves become excited and the blood pressure drops sharply, leading to dizziness, discomfort, fainting, or other problems. It is reported to occur with a frequency of 0.01 to 1%, although the reports vary to some degrees.

If such complications occur, we will handle them with the best treatments. (The medical treatment of such complications will be provided as a normal medical service covered by health insurance.)

## Inquiries

For inquiries about the diagnostic result, check items or other issues concerning the medical care, please consult your doctor.

The reference value list of check items is available at the blood collection room of Clinical Laboratory.

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