

Venous blood sampling

Haematology

EDTA

EDTA salts (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) are used to anticoagulate whole blood for haematological investigations, as the cellular components of the blood are particularly well preserved by EDTA. The anticoagulation is achieved by the EDTA forming complexes with metal ions such as calcium, therefore inhibiting the coagulation cascade. Anticoagulation with EDTA is irreversible.

The EDTA concentration in BD Vacutainer® tubes is 1.8 mg/mL of whole blood, as recommended by the ICSH (International Council Society of Haematology)¹. The ICSH recommends

dipotassium EDTA salt (K₂EDTA) for haematological investigation. BD Vacutainer® plastic (PET) tubes are available with spray dried K₂EDTA and K₃EDTA.












Tube mixing

To avoid micro-clotting, mix the EDTA tube with 8-10 inversions immediately after the blood sample has been taken.




Further information

Clinical and technical information is available on request.

BD Vacutainer® K₂EDTA tubes

Cat. no.	Draw volume (mL)	Size (mm)	Additive	Separator	Material	Label	Cap closure	Cap colour
368841	2.0	13 x 75	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	Paper	BD Hemogard™	
368274	2.0	13 x 75	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	See Thru	BD Hemogard™	
368856	3.0	13 x 75	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	Paper	BD Hemogard™	
368499	3.0	13 x 75	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	See Thru	BD Hemogard™	
368861	4.0	13 x 75	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	Paper	BD Hemogard™	
367862	4.0	13 x 75	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	See Thru	BD Hemogard™	
367864	6.0	13 x 100	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	Paper	BD Hemogard™	
365900	6.0	13 x 100	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	See Thru	BD Hemogard™	
367525	10.0	16 x 100	K ₂ EDTA	None	PET	Paper	BD Hemogard™	

BD Vacutainer® K₃EDTA tubes

Cat. no.	Draw volume (mL)	Size (mm)	Additive	Separator	Material	Label	Cap closure	Cap colour
367836	2.0	13 x 75	K ₃ EDTA	None	PET	Block	BD Hemogard™	
368857	3.0	13 x 75	K ₃ EDTA	None	PET	Block	BD Hemogard™	
368860	4.0	13 x 75	K ₃ EDTA	None	PET	Block	BD Hemogard™	

All tubes are supplied in boxes of 100 / cases of 1000

1. International Council for Standardisation in Haematology and: Expert Panel on Cytometry, Recommendations of the International Council for the Standardisation in Haematology for Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid Anticoagulation of Blood for Blood Cell Counting and Sizing. Am J Clin Pathol 1993;100: 371-372.