

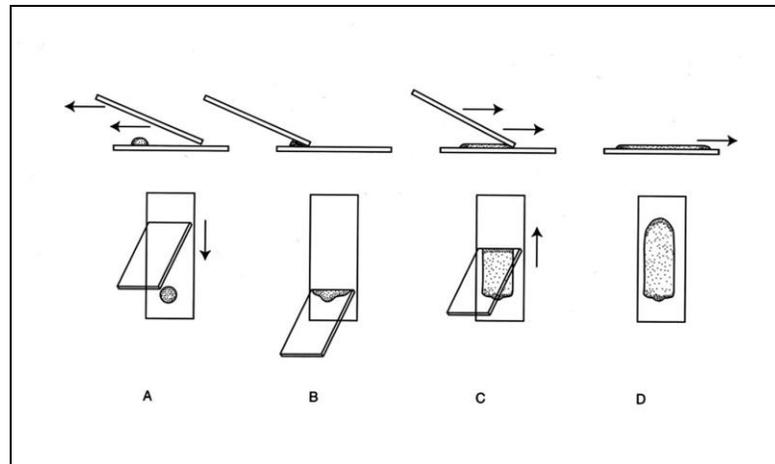
Guidelines for Sample Submission for Hematology Testing in Finfish Species

Diagnostic Services offers the following hematologic tests on finfish samples:

White blood cell estimates from blood smears;
White blood cell differential counts (percentages) from blood or blood smears;
Total protein concentration on plasma from blood;
Packed cell volume (PCV) from blood.

For optimal results:

1. Prior to sample submission, you may wish to contact our Fish Diagnostic Pathologist, Dr. David Groman, at 902-566-0864, who can discuss your case and recommend the types of samples to submit.
2. To prevent clotting, blood should be drawn into K-EDTA (lavender-topped tube) or lithium heparin (green-topped tube) anticoagulant and gently mixed by tube inversion 4-5 times. Unfortunately, the specimen cannot be analyzed if there is any clotting.
3. The blood should be kept cool (ideally refrigerated) and delivered to Diagnostic Services no later than 24-36 hours post collection for processing. Sufficient volume for analysis needs to be least 0.5 ml.
4. To optimize cell identification, please include 2 freshly prepared air-dried unstained blood smears. Do not refrigerate the slides as condensation can lyze cells. The following diagram presents a guide to good quality smear preparation: (NB – Hold the slider at a 45 degree angle and move it swiftly)



Modified from: Cowell RL, Tyler RD, Meinkoth JH. Diagnostic Cytology and Hematology of the Dog and Cat. 2nd edition, Mosby, St. Louis, 1997

Please call the main Diagnostic Laboratory at 902-566-0864 for more information if required.