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Molekularne diagnostične preiskave in vitro - Specifikacije za predpreiskovalne procese za venozno kri polne sestave - 1. del: Posamični celični RNA

Molecular in vitro diagnostic examinations - Specifications for pre-examination processes for venous whole blood - Part 1: Isolated cellular RNA

Molekularanalytische in-vitro-diagnostische Verfahren - Spezifikationen für präanalytische Prozesse für venöse Vollblutproben - Teil 1: Isolierte zelluläre RNS

Tests de diagnostic moléculaire in vitro - Spécifications relatives aux processus préanalytiques pour le sang veineux total - Partie 1 : ARN cellulaire isolé

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ICS:

11.100.10	Diagnostični preskusni sistemi in vitro	In vitro diagnostic test systems
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ICS

English Version

**Molecular in vitro diagnostic examinations - Specifications for
pre-examination processes for venous whole blood - Part 1:
Isolated cellular RNA**

Tests de diagnostic moléculaire in vitro - Spécifications
relatives aux processus préanalytiques pour le sang
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Molekularanalytische in-vitro-diagnostische Verfahren -
Spezifikationen für präanalytische Prozesse für venöse
Vollblutproben - Teil 1: Isolierte zelluläre RNS

This draft Technical Specification is submitted to CEN members for formal vote. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 140.

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Recipients of this draft are invited to submit, with their comments, notification of any relevant patent rights of which they are aware and to provide supporting documentation.

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Contents

Page

Foreword.....	3
Introduction	4
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Terms and definitions	5
4 General Considerations	6
5 Outside the laboratory	7
5.1 Primary venous whole blood collection manual	7
5.1.1 Information about the primary sample donor.....	7
5.1.2 Selection of the venous blood collection tube by the laboratory.....	7
5.1.3 Primary venous whole blood collection from the patient and stabilization procedures	7
5.1.4 Information on the primary blood sample and storage requirements at the blood collection facility.....	8
5.2 Transport requirements	8
6 Inside the laboratory	9
6.1 Sample reception	9
6.2 Storage requirements.....	9
6.3 Isolation of the cellular RNA.....	10
6.4 Quality assessment of isolated cellular RNA	11
6.5 Storage of isolated cellular RNA.....	11
Annex A (informative) Impact of preanalytical workflow steps on venous whole blood cellular RNA profiles	12
A.1 General information on operated experiments in Annex A and Annex B.....	12
A.2 Influence of blood collection tube type (with or without blood cellular RNA profile stabilizer) on the analysis of specific blood cellular RNA profiles.....	12
A.2.1 Unstable blood cellular RNA profiles	12
A.2.2 Stable blood cellular RNA profiles.....	14
Annex B (informative) Influence of blood storage temperature on blood cellular RNA profiles	16
Bibliography.....	19

Foreword

This document (FprCEN/TS 16835-1:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 140 “In vitro diagnostic medical devices”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This document is currently submitted to the Formal Vote.

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Introduction

Molecular *in vitro* diagnostics has enabled a significant progress in medicine. Further progress is expected by new technologies analyzing signatures of nucleic acids, proteins, and metabolites in human tissues and body fluids. However, the profiles of these molecules can change drastically during primary sample collection, transport, storage, and processing thus making the outcome from diagnostics or research unreliable or even impossible because the subsequent analytical assay will not determine the situation in the patient but an artificial profile generated during the pre-examination process. Therefore, a standardization of the entire process from sample collection to RNA analysis is needed. Studies have been undertaken to determine the important influencing factors. This Technical Specification draws upon such work to codify and standardize the steps for venous whole blood cellular RNA analysis in what is referred to as the preanalytical phase.

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1 Scope

This Technical Specification recommends the handling, documentation and processing of venous whole blood specimens intended for cellular RNA analysis during the preanalytical phase before a molecular assay is performed. This Technical Specification covers specimens collected by venous whole blood collection tubes. This Technical Specification is applicable to molecular *in vitro* diagnostic examinations (e.g. *in vitro* diagnostic laboratories, laboratory customers, *in vitro* diagnostics developers and manufacturers, institutions and commercial organizations performing biomedical research, biobanks, and regulatory authorities).

Blood cellular RNA profiles can change significantly after collection. Therefore, special measures need to be taken to secure good quality blood samples for cellular RNA analysis and storage.

Different dedicated measures need to be taken for stabilizing blood cell free circulating RNA and RNA in exosomes circulating in blood, which are not described in this Technical Specification.

Different dedicated measures need to be taken for collecting, stabilizing, transporting and storing capillary blood as well as for collecting and storing blood by paper based technologies. These are not described in this Technical Specification.

RNA in pathogens present in blood is not covered by this Technical Specification.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN ISO 15189:2012, *Medical laboratories — Requirements for quality and competence (ISO 15189:2012, Corrected version 2014-08-15)*

ISO 15190, *Medical laboratories — Requirements for safety*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN ISO 15189:2012 and the following apply.

3.1

ambient temperature

unregulated temperature of the surrounding air

3.2

analytical phase

processes that start with the isolated analyte and include all kind of parameter testing or chemical manipulation for quantitative or qualitative analysis

3.3

blood cellular RNA

cellular RNA

RNA molecules present in blood cells

3.4

blood cellular RNA profiles

amounts of different RNA molecules, that are present in blood cells and that can be measured in the absence of any losses, inhibition and interference

FprCEN/TS 16835-1:2015 (E)**3.5****blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers**

compounds, solutions or mixtures that can minimize changes of the blood cellular RNA profile

3.6**pre-examination processes**

preanalytical phase

preanalytical workflow

processes that start, in chronological order, from the clinician's request and include the examination request, preparation and identification of the patient, collection of the primary sample(s), temporary storage, transportation to and within the analytical laboratory, aliquoting, retrieval, isolation of analytes, and end when the analytical examination begins

[SOURCE: EN ISO 15189:2012, 3.15, modified — An additional term was added and more details were included.]

Note 1 to entry: The preanalytical phase may include preparative processes that may influence the outcome of the intended examination.

3.7**primary sample**

specimen

discrete portion of a body fluid, breath, hair or tissue taken for examination, study or analysis of one or more quantities or properties assumed to apply for the whole

[SOURCE: EN ISO 15189:2012, 3.16, modified — The term and definition is used here without the original notes.]

3.8**RNA****ribonucleic acid**

polymer of ribonucleotides occurring in a double-stranded or single-stranded form

[SOURCE: EN ISO 22174:2005, 3.1.3]

3.9**room temperature**

temperature which is defined as 18 °C to 25 °C for the purposes of this document

3.10**stability**

ability of a sample material, when stored under specified conditions, to maintain a stated property value within specified limits for a specified period of time

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 30:1992, 2.7]

Note 1 to entry: The measured constituent for the purpose of this document is blood cellular RNA.

4 General Considerations

For general statements on primary sample collection and handling (including avoidance of cross contaminations), see EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.2.6, 5.4.4. Consumables including kits shall be verified before use in examination (see EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.3.2.3); EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.5.1.2 and 5.5.1.3 can also apply.

As all steps of a diagnostic workflow can influence the final analytical performance, the entire workflow comprising the preanalytical steps, including information on sample stability and storage conditions, and the analytical steps should be verified and validated (see EN ISO 15189).

Blood cellular RNA profiles can change significantly after collection (e.g. gene induction, gene down regulation, RNA degradation) [3], [4], [5], [6]. These changes can vary individually in different blood donors' / patients' blood [3], [7], [8], [9], [10].

The stability of the specific blood cellular RNA profile of interest should be investigated throughout the complete preanalytical workflow.

Before or during the design of the analytical test system it should be investigated and ensured that the specific blood cellular RNA molecule/s amount/s intended to be analyzed in the analytical test is/are not affected by the envisioned entire preanalytical workflow.

If a commercial product is not used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, responsibility for its validation, verification, use and performance lies with the user.

Safety regulations on transport and handling shall be considered (EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.4.5 and ISO 15190).

5 Outside the laboratory

5.1 Primary venous whole blood collection manual

5.1.1 Information about the primary sample donor

The documentation should include, but is not limited to:

- a) the primary donor / patient ID, which can be in the form of a code;
- b) the health status and relevant lifestyle factors of the blood donor (e.g. healthy, disease type, diet, gender, age);
- c) the information about medical treatment and special treatment prior to blood collection (e.g. anaesthetics, medications, fasting status);
- d) the type and purpose of the analytical test requested.

See also EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.4.4.

5.1.2 Selection of the venous blood collection tube by the laboratory

Due to the high instability of blood cellular RNA profiles in individual patients/donors [3], [7], [8], [9], [10], commercially available blood collection tubes containing blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers should be used [7], [8], [10], [11], [12] (Figure A.1).

Blood collection tubes not containing any blood cellular RNA profile stabilizer should only be used, if the specific blood cellular RNA molecule or the blood cellular RNA profile to be analyzed is stable after blood draw (Figure A.2) or if the requested analytical test allows the use of such tubes.

5.1.3 Primary venous whole blood collection from the patient and stabilization procedures

- 1) The identity of the person collecting the sample and the time of blood collection according to EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.4.4.3, f) shall be documented.
- 2) For the labelling (sample identification) of the blood collection tube a routine procedure (EN ISO 15189:2012, 5.4.4.3, e)) or a procedure with additional information (e.g. 2D-barcode) shall be used.
- 3) Standard venepuncture technique can be used. Steps for preventing possible backflow may be required. The manufacturers' instructions for using the blood collection tubes shall be followed. A blood collection

FprCEN/TS 16835-1:2015 (E)

set and needle holder can be required when using blood cellular RNA profile stabilizer containing tubes. In this case, the instructions of the collection set and needle holder manufacturer shall be followed.

NOTE 1 There is no known specific effect of venous whole blood draw procedure on the cellular RNA. Routine procedures can therefore be used.

- 4) Blood collection tubes shall be filled in accordance to the manufacturers' instructions and attention should be drawn to the correct positioning of the collection tube during the blood draw as well as the required volume.
- 5) Blood collection tube manufacturers' instructions, for mixing or inverting the tube immediately after blood collection, shall be followed.

NOTE 2 Unless additives are homogenously mixed with the blood sample, the blood cellular RNA profile quality and the quality of individual cellular RNA molecules can be compromised, which can impact the validity and reliability of the analytical test results.

- 6) Any tampering with and/or additions to the primary sample shall be documented.

5.1.4 Information on the primary blood sample and storage requirements at the blood collection facility

As blood cellular RNA profiles can change significantly after blood collection and can thereby affect the validity and reliability of the analytical test result [3], [11], [13],[14] the documentation on the primary blood sample shall include the date and time of blood collection [3], [14], [15], [16].

For storing the primary blood samples collected in blood collection tubes with blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers, the blood collection tube manufacturers' instructions on storage conditions shall be followed (temperature and storage duration). Where the analytical test providers' instructions are more stringent, these shall be followed. The storage conditions (storage duration and temperature) shall be documented.

Blood collection tubes without blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers should only be used, if the ordered analytical test specifications allow the usage of such tubes. In these cases, the analytical test providers' instructions on storage conditions shall be followed. This can require documentation of storage conditions.

When using blood collection tubes without blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers and no requirements on the storage conditions are available, the primary blood samples should be transferred immediately to 2 °C to 8 °C or on wet-ice in order to minimize blood cellular RNA profile changes [8], [14], [15], [16] (Figure B.1). The storage conditions (storage duration and temperature) shall be documented. The storage duration allowed at 2 °C to 8 °C or on wet-ice is highly dependent on the stability of the individual RNA molecules and their cellular quantities to be analyzed in the analytical test. This stability can vary between several minutes and over 24 h.

NOTE Under these conditions blood cellular RNA profile changes can still occur when no blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers are used (Figure B.1).

For samples dedicated to be archived in a biobank it is usually not known which individual RNA molecules will be analyzed after archiving, therefore tubes without blood cellular RNA profile stabilizers should not be used for biobanking.

The temporary storage duration in the blood collection facility contributes to the total duration for storage.

5.2 Transport requirements

The required transport conditions shall be documented including any deviations therefrom.