New hematology tests available October 1

WHAT’S NEW?
Effective Sat., October 1, PeaceHealth Laboratories in Springfield will begin offering two new hematology tests.

PLATELET COUNT, CTAD (LAB6268)
- For use in patients with chronic platelet clumping on previous CBC orders.
- Involves collection into a targeted anti-platelet anticoagulant highly effective at preventing platelet clumping, allowing an accurate platelet count.

SCHISTOCYTE COUNT, BLOOD (LAB6267)
- Allows schistocyte quantitation to be ordered for evaluation of microangiopathic hemolytic anemias (TTP, HUS, DIC, etc).
- Schistocytes reported as percentage of RBCs, based on 1000 cell count.

SUMMARY OF NEW TESTS:
PLATELET COUNT, CTAD requires collection into a special tube containing multiple anti-platelet agents: citrate, theophylline, adenosine, and dipyridamole. This tube is highly effective at preventing platelet clumping in patients with a prior pattern of clumping when collected into EDTA. This is a common problem attributed in many cases to clinically trivial antibodies active in EDTA which can prevent accurate reporting of the platelet count. This phenomenon can be particularly problematic in patients with real or apparent (artifactual) concurrent thrombocytopenia, where an accurate platelet count is important. Preliminary studies at PeaceHealth Laboratories (PHL) have confirmed that platelet clumping occurring in EDTA and citrate anticoagulants is prevented in most cases using CTAD tubes. PHL and published studies\(^1\) both show that equivalent platelet count results are obtained with EDTA vs. CTAD tubes in normal patients.

SCHISTOCYTE COUNT, BLOOD allows physicians to easily order a microscopic quantitation of schistocytes following established consensus guidelines for enumeration.\(^3\) Schistocytes are a non-specific finding which can be seen with many disorders including kidney disease, burns, and heart valves; however, at levels >1.0% this finding is strongly suggestive of microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, including TTP in clinically compatible patients.\(^4\) TTP is an acute diagnosis with high mortality untreated and good survival with appropriate therapy. ADAMTS13 testing may be useful in diagnosis but is neither specific nor sensitive for TTP. Schistocyte quantitation provides a rapid and inexpensive method for initial evaluation.

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<th>Platelet Count, CTAD – LAB6268</th>
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<td>Collect: 1 blue top CTAD tube</td>
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<td>*CTAD tubes are available by request</td>
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<th>Schistocyte Count – LAB6267</th>
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<td>Collect: 1 lavender EDTA tube</td>
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Stability
24 hours refrigerated

Testing Schedule
24 hours per day, 7 days per week

QUESTIONS?
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References:

Platelet Count, CTAD
1. Lawrence J. Preanalytical variables in the Coagulation Laboratory.  

Schistocytes Count, Blood