

## Slide Preparation

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### Materials required for blood slide preparation

Blood - Fresh < 20 seconds from draw or anticoagulated (preferably with EDTA)

2 slides – New, precleaned, with marking area

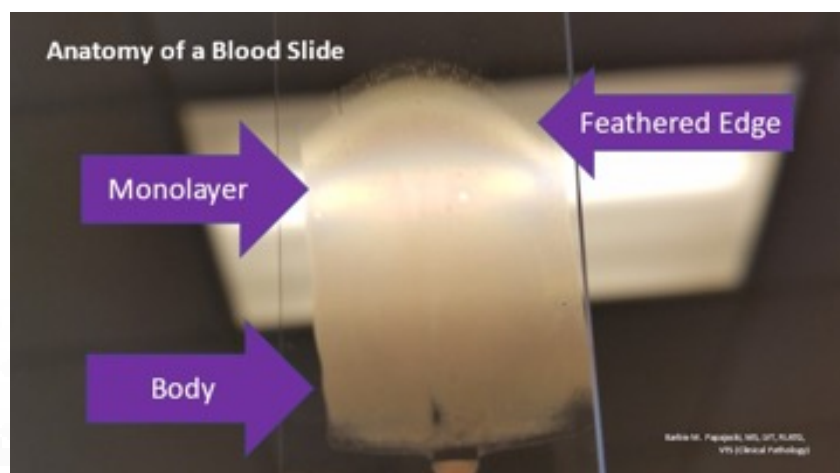
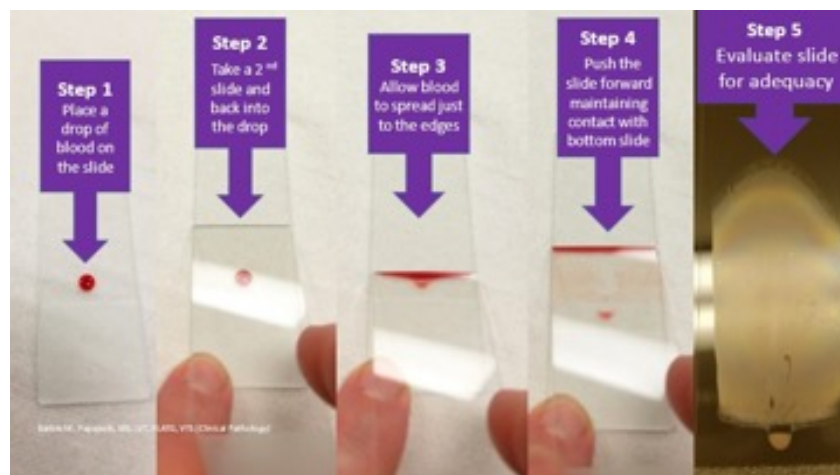
Plain PCV tube, wooden applicator stick, or pipet to transfer drop

Pencil or slide marker

Lab wipes for removing excess blood

Quick stains

Distilled or tap water



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## Slide Troubleshooting

Problem	Cause	Solution
Holes	Dirt, oil, fingerprints Aged sample Moisture Lipemia Clumped platelets	Use new, clean slides, wipe with clean microfiber cloth if needed Make smears ASAP after venipuncture Make sure slides are dry Fast animals Avoid traumatic venipuncture or processing delays
Streaks & gaps	Too much or uneven pressure Chips in spreader slide	Use light but even pressure on spreader slide Check slides for imperfections
Too long	Too much blood Slide moved forward too slowly Angle of spreader slide is too small	Use no more than a 2-3 mm drop Proceed forward with even speed Increase angle of spreader slide
Too short	Not enough blood Slide moved forward too fast Angle of spreader slide is too large	Use at least a 2 mm drop Proceed forward with even speed Decrease angle of spreader slide
Too thick	Too much blood Spreader slide not in contact with bottom slide throughout process	Use no more than a 2-3 mm drop Maintain contact of spreader slide with bottom slide throughout process
Refractive artifacts	Moisture in fixative	Replace the fixative
Precipitation	Degradation or contamination of stains Failure to rinse properly	Filter or replace stains Adequately rinse slides until water is clear