

## DBS procedure

1. Clearly label card with appropriate patient identification number, total white cell count and lymphocyte count.
2. Spot at least 200  $\mu\text{l}$  of EDTA blood in total in the card (ex: 40  $\mu\text{l}$  per circle if the card has 5 circles).
3. The transfer of blood should be performed with a pipette and a disposable tip.
  - i. Uniformly saturate entire circle
  - ii. Care should be taken not to touch the DBS circle once blood is applied.
  - iii. Allow the card to absorb the blood until the circle is full.
4. Allow the specimen to fully air dry horizontally (at least 3 hours) in a clean dry place at room temperature.
5. Once dry insert the card into a sealable gas zip lock bag containing desiccant packs and a humidity indicator. Store no more than one card per bag.
6. Seal zip lock bag and store at room temperature (15-30°C) until ready to ship/transport.
7. Specimens must be transported or mailed within 24 hours after collection

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