

Buccal Mucosal Bleeding Time

Summary

The Buccal Mucosal Bleeding Time (BMBT) can provide the clinician with important information regarding the interaction between platelets and the vascular endothelium. Although the BMBT can be prolonged in conjunction with a variety of hemostatic disorders (Thrombocytopenia, vascular injury, or hemophilia), a prolonged bleeding time in the presence of a normal platelet count suggests defective platelet function. Platelet dysfunction is commonly seen with von Willebrand's Disease (VWD); however, aberrant platelet function may also accompany other diseases or the administration of certain drugs. A BMBT test should be considered for all patients undergoing surgery, but especially for those breeds known to be prone to VWD.

Materials Provided

Surgicutt® bleeding time device
Blotting Paper (#1 Whatman is recommended.)
Stopwatch

Procedure

1. Position the patient in lateral recumbency.
2. Firmly tie a gauze muzzle around the proximal maxilla while everting the upper lip to expose the buccal surface.
3. Remove the safety guard and place the Surgicutt® device lightly against the exposed buccal surface and release the spring-loaded lancet. The blade will produce a 1 mm deep linear incision.
4. Start the stopwatch and begin absorbing blood away from the incision at approximately 5 second intervals. Blood should be "wicked away" from the edge of the incision. Do not apply direct pressure.
5. Continue blotting until bleeding stops. Record the elapsed time.



Set up and prep



Remove safety guard



Perform Incision



Blot every 5 seconds



Record elapsed time

Normal Values*

Dogs < 4 minutes
Cats < 3 minutes

*Values extracted from the literature. Each clinic should establish its own reference value by testing 5-10 normal samples.

Additional Notes

Patients with prolonged bleeding times should receive further investigation. Prolonged bleeding times can occur secondary to Thrombocytopenia. A platelet count should accompany the BMBT.

Reorders:

HEM-BMBTKIT	Complete Buccal Mucosal Bleeding Time Kit (Surgicutt, Blotting Paper, Stopwatch)
HEM-ITCSU501	Surgicutt Lancet; Pkg. 10
GEN-WH1002-110	Whatman Filter Paper (for blotting)

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