

Saline Agglutination Test

©Ashlie Saffire DVM, DABVP (Feline) 2025

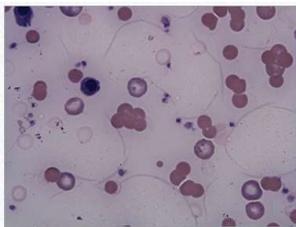
***Used to differentiate true autoagglutination from rouleaux formation.**

1. Place a single drop of EDTA-anticoagulated blood (LTT) onto a microscope slide and mix with 3-4 drops of saline.
2. Rock the slide back and forth. Evaluate for macroagglutination.

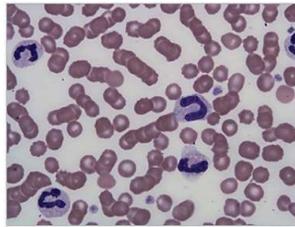


Macroagglutination

3. Then, place a coverslip and evaluate for microagglutination (4 + RBCs in a cluster)



Microagglutination



Rouleaux

4. True agglutination looks like “clusters of grapes” while rouleaux looks like “stacks of coins”
 - Saline can disperse rouleaux but will not disperse true autoagglutination.
 - NOTE: Autoagglutination is only seen with HIGH Ab levels, therefore a negative saline agglutination test does not rule out IMHA!