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If patient sample auto-agglutinates, perform the following cell washing procedure. Phosphate Buffered Saline (pH 7.0-7.2) is recommended; however, 0.9% saline may be used.

WASHING RED BLOOD CELLS

1. Centrifuge whole blood sample. (If using PRBCs, start at Step 3.)
2. Using a clean pipette, separate plasma from red blood cells.
3. To red cells in tube, add PBS or saline, filling tube almost 3/4 full.
4. Centrifuge for approximately 60 seconds.
5. Discard supernatant, making sure not to disturb the RBC pellet.
6. Repeat Steps 3 through 5 two or three more times.
7. Mix red cells 1:1 with PBS or saline to resuspend the RBC pellet.
8. Examine tube for agglutination. If sample agglutinates, repeat washing procedure. If no agglutination, proceed with testing.