

How to perform a blood smear test – Giemsa Stain.

The aim of this test is to determine the morphology of the cells within the blood is correct as well as trying to identify any parasites within the blood serum.

Giemsa stain is used to identify the morphology of Red Blood Cells

- 1- Obtain blood from consenting patient and place with anticoagulation (ie EDTA, warfarin etc)
- 2- Place a single drop on one end of the microscope slide



- 3- Use a second slide perpendicular to the first slide to draw the blood drop back before sliding across the whole slide



- 4- Allow to air dry then fix in 10% buffered formalin for 15-20 minutes
- 5- Add Giemsa stain and leave for 2 minutes (10% Giemsa in distilled water)
- 6- Rinse in distilled water
- 7- View under light microscope