Diagnostic Guidelines

Recommendations for Running Ammonia (NH_3) on your IDEXX Catalyst One* Chemistry Analyzer

To receive accurate results, please follow the recommendations below when preparing and running Ammonia (NH_3) on the Catalyst One* analyzer.

Sample Collection and Handling

- It is recommended that only plasma samples are used. Ammonia is released during the clotting process and serum samples may show elevated levels of NH_3.
- If there is any delay between collection, centrifugation, and analysis, the sample must be capped and placed on ice immediately.
- Samples must be analyzed immediately after collection.

Sample Preparation Tips

Catalyst One* dry-slide technology minimizes the effect of interfering substances. However, red blood cells that have burst in hemolyzed samples can release additional ammonia, causing NH_3 values to be artificially increased.

Sample Cup (Plasma)

- Avoid hemolyzed samples. Before running, be sure to check the sample integrity.
- Use lithium heparin treated whole blood.
- Immediately after collection, centrifuge the whole blood sample and separate the plasma from the cells.
- Analyze the sample immediately after centrifugation and separation.

Whole Blood Separator (Whole Blood Only)

- Avoid hemolyzed samples. After running, be sure to check the sample integrity.
- Use lithium heparin treated whole blood.
- Load whole blood separator immediately after collection.

Ammonia Maintenance Procedures and Laboratory Atmosphere

Refer to the *IDEXX Catalyst One Chemistry Analyzer Operator's Guide* for detailed maintenance instructions.

- Keep the waste drawer clean, using a non-ammonia based cleaner.
- Empty the waste drawer prior to running NH_3 slides. Ammonia can be released from the sample on previously run slides.
- Clean the analyzer, internally and externally, monthly. Perform quality control testing after monthly cleaning.
- Reduce or eliminate sources of NH_3 in your laboratory. Avoid using ammonia-based cleaners, hand creams, organic solvents, ink markers, sprays containing volatile liquids, insecticides, disinfectant, polish, smoke residue, or room freshener around the analyzer.

Information valid as of April 2009. For assistance, please call IDEXX Technical Support.