

Diagnostic Guidelines

Recommendations for Running Ammonia (NH₃) on your IDEXX Catalyst Dx* Chemistry Analyzer

To receive accurate results, please follow the recommendations below when preparing and running Ammonia (NH₃) on the Catalyst Dx* 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 NH₃.
- 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 Dx* dry-slide technology minimizes the effect of interfering substances. However, red blood cells that have burst in hemolyzed samples can release additional ammonia, causing NH₃ 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.

Running Ammonia on the Catalyst Dx (Special Slide Handling Rules)

- Empty the waste drawer prior to running NH₃ slides. Ammonia can be released from the sample on previously run slides.
- Follow special slide handling rules to receive accurate results:
 - Always select the NH₃ special slides check box on the Identify Sample screen when running an Ammonia slide on the Catalyst Dx analyzer.
 - Be sure to load the ammonia slide in the sample drawer before any other slides are loaded.

Note: If these rules are not followed, you will receive an alert on your results printout.

Ammonia Maintenance Procedures and Laboratory Atmosphere

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

- Keep the waste drawer clean, using a non-ammonia based cleaner.
- Clean the analyzer, internally and externally, monthly. Perform quality control testing after monthly cleaning.
- Reduce or eliminate sources of NH₃ 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.

IDEXX Technical Support

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