



TRANSFIX[®] Vacuum Blood Collection Tubes

Product Description

TransFix[®] is a patented whole blood stabilisation solution developed by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and manufactured under licence by Cytomark Ltd.

TransFix[®] Vacuum Blood Collection Tubes are used as a system to collect and stabilise venous blood at the point of collection.. They can also be used to transport and process blood for testing serum or whole blood in a clinical laboratory.

TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes are plastic tubes with a purple stopper.

TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes can be used for routine immunohaematology, flow cytometry testing and blood donor screening.

TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes contain K3EDTA and 0.6ml of TransFix[®] sufficient to stabilise 3ml of blood.

Intended Use and Principles of Stabilisation

The active components of TransFix[®] will stabilise cellular antigens for up to 10 days. In whole blood immunophenotyping and immune monitoring TransFix[®] is added to whole blood at a ratio of 200µl per ml (1:5). The preparation is then treated as a "routine" sample for immunophenotyping procedures and will maintain its staining profile for up to 10 days when stored at 4°C.

Statement of Warnings

1. TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes treated specimens, samples and all material coming in contact with them should be handled as if capable of transmitting infection and disposed of with proper precautions.
2. TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes should be store at room temperature (18-25°C). **Do not refrigerate.**
3. Blood samples mixed with TransFix[®] should be stored at 4°C.
4. Avoid contact of TransFix[®] and TransFix[®] treated samples with skin and mucous membranes. If contact occurs immediately wash off with cold water.
5. Do not use TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes beyond the expiration date printed on the tube.
6. Incubation times or temperatures other than those specified may give erroneous results.
7. TransFix[®] does not contain anti microbial reagents. Microbial contamination must be avoided or erroneous results may occur.
8. Use Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) when handling this reagent.

Storage and Stability

Store TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes at room temperature (18-25°C). Contents of unused tubes are stable until the expiration date printed on the label.

Evidence of Deterioration

The normal appearance TransFix[®] is that of a clear pale green liquid. Any change in the physical appearance of the reagent may indicate deterioration and the reagent should not be used.

Materials Required but Not Supplied

1. Pipettors and plastic tips capable of delivering 200µl to 1000µl.
2. Plastic storage rack.
3. Labels to indicate samples contain TransFix[®] reagent.



Procedure

1. No preparation is needed. Use Vacuum Tubes directly. Insert the Vacuum tube into the tube holder (plastic cylinder)
2. Determine volume of blood in the blood collection tube. A full blood collection tube will contain 3ml of blood.
3. Gently invert 8-10 times after collection to distribute the TransFix[®] reagent throughout the blood sample.
4. Place sample in a rack for subsequent cellular antigen assay. Vacuum Tubes with TransFix[®] are stable for up to 10 days at 4°C, 7 days at Room Temperature (18°C to 24°C) and for 3 days at 37°C. .

Please Note:

1. Samples stored at 4°C must be allowed to return to ambient temperature before any cellular antigen assays are performed.
2. Stored TransFix[®] Vacuum Tubes must be mixed thoroughly by inversion (25x) to re-suspend cells before analysis by flow cytometry.
3. Cell counts from TransFix[®] samples must be divided by 0.8 to adjust for the dilution factor.

Limitations

When using TransFix[®] with samples collected from leukaemic patients it may be necessary to establish an appropriate volume of reagent to add, which may be different to that quoted in the procedure. Volumes in the region of 0.5-1.0ml per ml of blood may be more appropriate.

Frequently questions:

1. Is TransFix[®] suitable for Immunophenotyping?

This is a complex question which relies on several factors other than TransFix[®], such as the type and manufacturer of antibodies being used. Cytomark recommend that potential users test the antibodies used in routine immunophenotyping to ensure there is no interference from TransFix[®]. As a general guide TransFix[®] will protect the following antigens: CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8, CD10, CD11B, CD13, CD14, CD19, CD20, CD22, CD23, CD33, CD34, CD45, CD79B and HLA-DR

2. Will TransFix[®] preserve intracellular antigens?

Yes, but it also causes a progressive permeabilisation of the cellular membrane. This means that the intracellular markers will leach out over time. As a general guide intracellular antigen measurement on TransFix[®] treated samples is only possible up to 3 days after the addition of TransFix[®]

3. Will TransFix[®] preserve cell lines?

Yes, but the user must define the optimal concentration of TransFix[®] to use in their particular application. The user must determine the optimal dilution required by setting up a concentration curve starting with 0.05ml per ml of whole blood and going up in 0.05ml steps to 0.4ml. Samples should be analysed before addition of TransFix[®] to establish a scatter diagram. The TransFix[®] treated samples should then be tested 10 days later. The optimal dilution is the concentration that gives the same scatter diagram as the original at 10 days storage.

References:

TVT-10-3	Vacuum Tubes & Transfix 10 x 0,6ml	10 x 0,6 ml
TVT-25-3	Vacuum Tubes & Transfix 25 x 0,6ml	25 x 0,6 ml
TVT-50-3	Vacuum Tubes & Transfix 50 x 0,6ml	50 x 0,6 ml
TVT-100-3	Vacuum Tubes & Transfix 100 x 0,6ml	100 x 0.6 ml