

SALIVA & BLOOD SPOT

Testing Instructions

1 Choose Your Collection Day

Read all instructions thoroughly and decide the ideal day for you to test. Mark it on your calendar.

Men, Children & Non-Menstruating Women

- ▶ Collect any day of the month.

Menstruating Women

- ▶ If you are testing FSH for fertility reasons, collect on day 3 of menstrual cycle.
- ▶ If testing Estradiol (E2), Progesterone (Pg) or Testosterone (T):
 - Regular Cycles: Collect on day 19, 20 or 21 of the menstrual cycle. (Day 1 = first day of your period.)
 - Irregular Cycles: If you know when your period will start, choose 5 days before.
 - Unpredictable: Collect any day when not bleeding.
- ▶ For all other tests, you can collect on any day of the month.
- ▶ Failure to follow instructions may compromise your lab results.



View the
collection video at
www.zrtlab.com

2 Hormone Users *skip this step if not using hormones*

- ▶ **Topical & Oral:** The day before testing, continue use of hormones as prescribed. Make sure any night dosage is applied at least 12 hours before planned morning collection. For example, dose before 8pm for an 8am collection. If using oral progesterone, your dosage can be right before bed.

Do NOT use bare hands for topical hormone application for at least two days prior to collection (apply hormones using gloves or applicator). Avoid using hormones on the face, lips and neck. Change sheets, pillow cases and hand towels the night before collecting. Avoid touching bathroom surfaces which may be contaminated with traces of hormones.

- ▶ **Patches, Vaginal Rings, Pellets or Injectables:** Test half-way between doses. For example, collect 3 days after a once-a-week patch, or 2 weeks after a once-a-month injection.
- ▶ **Troches or Sublingual Therapies:** Not recommended for saliva hormone testing. For blood spot testing, follow guidelines for Topical & Oral above. Troche or sublingual therapy users can collect 6-10 hours after last dosage if testing blood spot.
- ▶ **7-Keto DHEA:** Avoid for 3 days prior to collecting (unless testing LC-MS Saliva Steroid Profile). Does not apply to regular DHEA.
- ▶ **Steroids (e.g. glucocorticoids, hydrocortisone, prednisone):** Talk to your health care provider about appropriate timing.

3 Prepare for Collection

- ▶ Avoid for 3 days prior to testing: **anti-aging/anti-wrinkle facial creams** and **biotin/vitamin B7 (hair and nail formulas)**.
- ▶ If you are testing CardioMetabolic Profile tests (e.g. insulin, triglycerides) ZRT recommends fasting (no food or drink other than water) 10-12 hours overnight before collecting in the morning.
- ▶ Unless otherwise directed by your healthcare provider, use the collection table as a guide to time your collections.

Collection Timetable	UPON WAKING	BEFORE LUNCH	BEFORE DINNER	BEFORE BED
Blood Spot	●			
Saliva	Large Tube	Small Tube	Small Tube	Small Tube
	●	●	●	●

4 Collect Samples

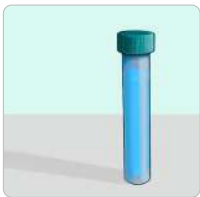
Saliva Collection

Important

- ▶ Each saliva sample must fill the tube at least half way, not including bubbles.
- ▶ Mistake collecting saliva? Rinse your tubes out with hot water (no soap), shake out remaining water, and air dry. Restart your collection at the appropriate time.
- ▶ Freeze any samples not being shipped within 24 hours. Samples will be stable during shipping.

STEP 1

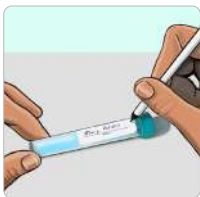
Begin collecting your first saliva sample into the large tube within 30 minutes of waking for the day. Wash hands with soap and water. Use a clean towel to dry hands. Rinse your mouth with water. Wait 5 minutes before beginning collection.



STEP 2

Allow saliva to pool in mouth, then transfer to tube. Fill tube at least half full, not including bubbles. Collection usually takes 15-30 minutes depending on saliva flow. When done, cap the tube.

Tip: Smelling food, yawning, or pressing the tip of your tongue against your teeth can all help with saliva flow.



STEP 3

Write your name, the date and time of collection on the tube.

Place the tube back into the bag.

STEP 4

Repeat this process for any other collection times using the smaller tubes provided. Do not eat, drink (except water), or brush teeth at least 2 hours prior to collections.

Blood Spot Collection

Important

Samples that do not meet criteria below may not be usable for testing. Each blood spot must:

- ▶ Soak through the collection card so that blood shows through on the back.
- ▶ Be at least the size of a pencil eraser (appx 1/4" or 6.5 mm).
- ▶ Contain one drop per circle, no overlapping.



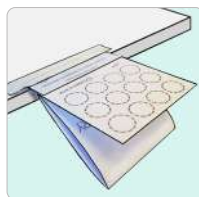
UNACCEPTABLE



ACCEPTABLE

STEP 1

Collect blood sample within 1 hour of waking. Wash hands with soap and water. Use a clean towel to dry hands. Make sure hands are warm and circulation is going. Write your name, the date and time of collection on the card prior to collecting. **Tip:** To encourage blood flow before nicking finger, rub hands together/swing arm and/or run hand under warm water.



STEP 2

Open the cover on the collection card. Fold it back and away from the filter paper. Avoid touching the filter paper. Tape card to a flat surface like a table, below waist level. Open the alcohol prep pad and sterile gauze. Select finger. Middle or ring finger is recommended. Wipe finger with alcohol prep pad & allow to air dry for 15-30 seconds.



STEP 3

Twist cap off lancet and press small white section firmly against the side of finger pad until lancet clicks. Wipe away the first blood drop with gauze.

STEP 4

Position finger over circle of blood spot card and gently milk (don't squeeze) blood from the finger. Collect so that your hand is below your waist, allowing gravity to assist with blood flow. **Tip:** Squeeze arm from elbow to base of finger.



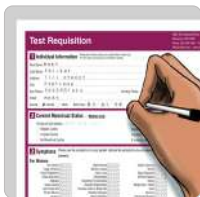
STEP 5

As blood drop forms and is ready to fall, touch the drop onto to the center of the circle (one drop per circle). Continue collection until all circles have been filled. When finished, apply bandage.

STEP 6

Leave blood spot card open to dry - minimum 30 minutes. Once sample is dry, close cover. Store card in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight until it is shipped.

5 Finish & Send



STEP 1

Complete all paperwork. Make sure all sections are filled in and your form is signed.



STEP 2

Place the samples, the Test Requisition form and any additional paperwork back into the plastic test kit box. Make sure to include payment (if applicable). Snap test kit lid shut.



STEP 3

Place the entire test kit box inside the return packaging. Affix the prepaid label or postage if applicable. Return using the appropriate carrier. Samples will remain stable under average shipping conditions, including over weekends and holidays.