

Introduction

Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte / Metabolite Control is intended as a quality control material for use on all analyzers measuring pH, $p\text{CO}_2$, $p\text{O}_2$, Na+, K+, Cl-, Ca++, Li+, Mg++, LAC, GLU, BUN, and CREAT.

Summary and Principle

The determination of acid base, Blood Gas, and Electrolyte status in blood has become an integral part of the diagnosis and treatment of patients in intensive care units and surgery. Instruments that measure Blood Gas, Electrolyte, and Metabolite parameters must meet stringent requirements for accuracy and precision. Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte / Metabolite Control (when used as part of a total quality control system) will assist clinicians in monitoring the performance characteristics and calibration of their critical care instrumentation.

Product Description

Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte / Metabolite control is provided in sealed ampules containing buffers and salts in aqueous matrix, and are equilibrated with known levels of carbon dioxide, oxygen, and nitrogen. Reagent grade chemicals of known quality and quantity are used in this material. These controls are formulated into 3 distinct levels that simulate distinct physiological ranges for each parameter:

Level 1 Acidosis / Level 2 Normal / Level 3 Alkalosis

Assigned Values

The reference ranges for each parameter are assigned by multiple determinations performed on various makes and models of blood gas and electrolyte instruments listed in this assay sheet. The assigned values are determined with the product equilibrated at 25° Celsius and measured at 37° Celsius. If the instruments are properly calibrated, test data obtained while using our control set should fall within expected ranges. Actual results obtained may vary depending upon analyzer and methodology used, as well as assay temperature. Results may also depend upon the accuracy of the instrument and reagent calibration. The degree of acceptable variation is an individual judgment based upon a test analyte's methodology, clinical significance and medical decision levels. For this reason, it is recommended that each laboratory establish their own mean and standard deviation in accordance with daily laboratory practice.

Storage and Stability

Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte / Metabolite Control should be stored at 2° to 8° Celsius. This control may be stored unopened at room temperature (20 to 25°C) for 12 months, but do not expose it to temperatures below 2°C or above 30°C. Do not store in direct sunlight. Avoid storing the product for prolonged periods of time in areas exposed to extreme fluctuations. Freezing of product will cause ampules to crack and / or affect product reliability. If stored at 2°-8° Celsius, this product is stable for thirty-six months from date of manufacture. The lot number and expiration date are stamped on the ampules, package, and assay chart. This product is shipped under ambient conditions.

Directions for Use

Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte/ Metabolite Control should be equilibrated at room temperature for at least one day before use. Before actual sampling, hold ampule by the top and shake gently. Then with light tapping, restore all liquid to the bottom. Break open carefully to avoid cutting of fingers – using tissue and gauze if necessary. For best results immediately aspirate liquid into analyzer (i.e. within 60 seconds). Delay in measuring contents of open ampule may cause room contamination and result in higher PO_2 values than those stated on the assay chart. While a direct aspiration technique minimizes air contamination of samples, this control may also be introduced to an instrument via syringe injection. After opening the ampule, aspirate the liquid immediately using a 3cc tuberculin syringe fitted with a 20-gauge needle. Once foam and air bubbles are expelled remove the needle and inject liquid into the instrument.

Recommended Use

The three levels of Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte / Metabolite Control provides clinicians with a full range QC set that can be used to assess the performance characteristics of their instrumentation. These 3 levels should be run once every 8-hour shift and at any other time your instrument performance requires verification. If an analyzer has been shut down for an extended period, the use of control materials after calibration and before blood measurement is also recommended.

Limitations

Phoenix Diagnostics' Blood Gas / Electrolyte / Metabolite Control is sensitive to cuvette temperature, air contamination, calibration errors, and electrode drifts in Blood Gas / ISE systems. It is intended for use in evaluating the performance of laboratory instruments, and should not be considered as a substitute for other aspects of quality control such as calibration, recommended maintenance techniques and proper record keeping.

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