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## Buccal Mucosal Bleeding Time

### Summary

The Buccal Mucosal Bleeding Time (BMBT) can provide the clinician with important information regarding the interaction between platelets and the vascular endothelium. Although the BMBT can be prolonged in conjunction with a variety of hemostatic disorders (Thrombocytopenia, vascular injury, or hemophilia), a prolonged bleeding time in the presence of a normal platelet count suggests defective platelet function. Platelet dysfunction is commonly seen with von Willebrand's Disease (VWD); however, aberrant platelet function may also accompany other diseases or the administration of certain drugs. A BMBT test should be considered for all patients undergoing surgery, but especially for those breeds known to be prone to VWD.

### Materials Provided

Surgicutt® bleeding time device  
Blotting Paper (#1 Whatman is recommended.)  
Stopwatch

### Procedure

1. Position the patient in lateral recumbency.
2. Firmly tie a gauze muzzle around the proximal maxilla while everting the upper lip to expose the buccal surface.
3. Place the Surgicutt® device lightly against the exposed buccal surface and release the spring-loaded lancet. The blade will produce a 1 mm deep linear incision.
4. Start the stopwatch and begin blotting the blood away from the incision at approximately 5 second intervals.
5. Continue blotting until bleeding stops. Record the elapsed time.



Set up and prep



Perform Incision



Blot every 5 seconds



Record elapsed time

### Normal Values

Dogs < 4 minutes  
Cats < 3 minutes

### Additional Notes

Patients with prolonged bleeding times should receive further investigation. Prolonged bleeding times can occur secondary to Thrombocytopenia. A platelet count should accompany the BMBT.

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