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**Original article:**

**Effect of temperature and serum–clot contact time on the clinical chemistry laboratory results**

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**Abstract**

**Introduction-** Clot contact time and temperature have variable effect on the stability of laboratory investigations. This study is conducted to establish the maximum time delay acceptable between sample collection and separation of serum and the optimum temperature which should be maintained during this time delay.

**Methods and materials**- six morning samples from 30 healthy volunteers are collected.3 samples from each volunteer is stored for 0hrs, 3hrs and 6hrs at 230C and another 3 samples at 0 hrs, 3hrs and 6hrs at 320C. stability of electrolytes is analyzed by repeated measure anova.

**Results and discussion-** stability of electrolytes (sodium and potassium) is not altered when samples are stored at 230C. The maximum clot contact times which have no effect the stability of electrolytes is 3hrs.

**Keywords-** electrolytes, clot contact time, preanalytical variables