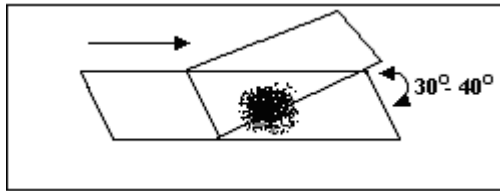


Peripheral Blood Smears

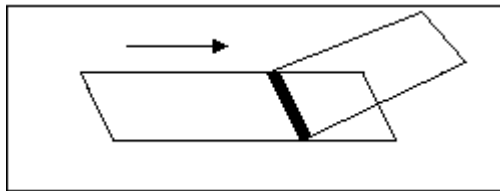
We recommend that smears be provided with every request for automated CBC with differential, platelet count, and blood smears to pathology. Smears must be thin, evenly fading toward the middle of the slide, leaving a “feathered” edge. The smear should cover about two-thirds to three-fourths of the slide length.

Procedure:

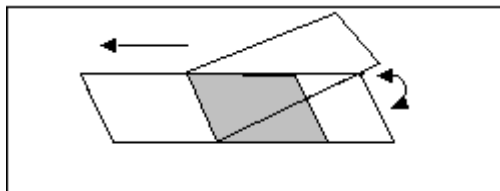
- Place a small drop of blood (3-4 mm in a diameter) $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from one end of a clear glass slide.
- Draw a spreader slide back to the blood at a 30° - 40° angle.



- Let blood flow to the edges of the spreader slide, about 1-2 mm in depth.

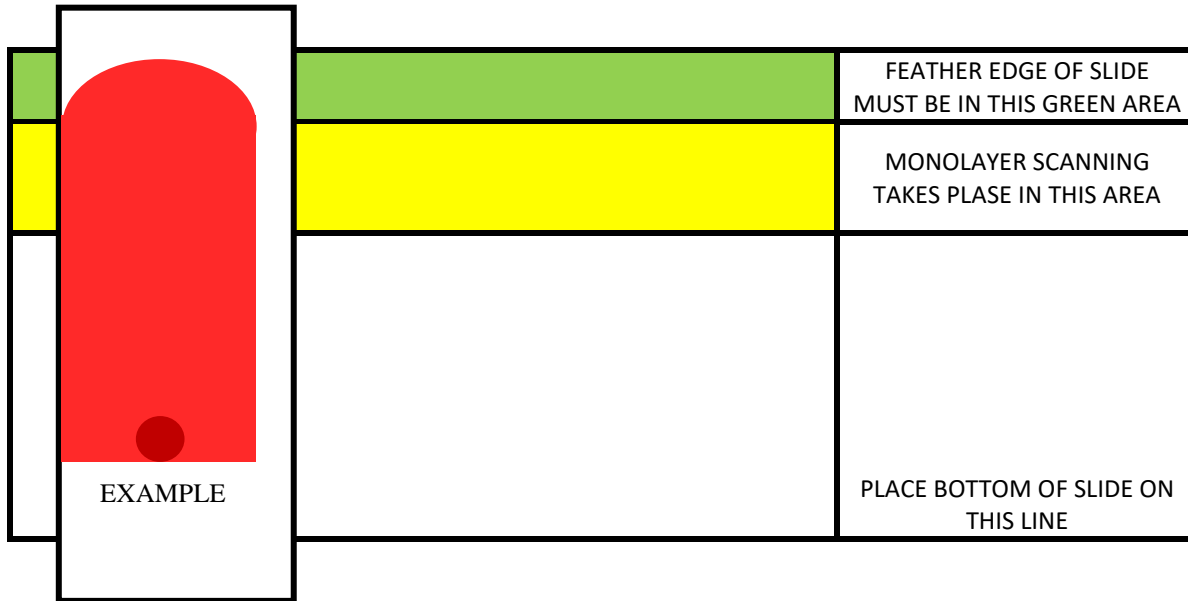


- Keeping the spreader slide at a 30° - 40° angle, apply light but firm pressure against the horizontal slide, and push the spreader slide smoothly and quickly down the horizontal slide.



- Fan the slides immediately for quick drying.
- Write the patient's name with a pencil on the frosted end of the slide or through the thick end of the smear.

A well prepared slide should follow the example below:



NOTE: the size of the drop of blood, the angle of the spreader slide, and the speed of the spreading process control the length of the blood smear. A long smear indicates either a drop that was too large or a narrow angle was used with the spreader slide. A short smear indicates a large angle was used with the spreader slide or the smear was prepared using a slow speed.