

*The purpose of the blood culture test is to find bacteria in your blood. The person drawing your blood will thoroughly clean your skin because skin has bacteria on it normally.*

1. The person drawing your blood will first use alcohol and then *iodine*. If you are allergic to *iodine*, please tell the person drawing your blood. They will only use alcohol to clean your skin.
2. A blood sample will be collected.
3. If the doctor ordered more than one blood culture, more blood samples will be drawn at different times and sites.
4. The person drawing blood from your vein will place gauze where your blood was drawn. She/he will ask you to raise your arm and hold the gauze firmly until the bleeding has stopped.
5. A bandage will be placed over the gauze on the spot where your blood was drawn.
6. Do not remove the bandage for at least 15 minutes.
7. Avoid bending your arm or carrying heavy objects for about 1 hour.
8. After taking off the bandage, you may see a small red or blue mark. Slight bruising or soreness may happen with some patients.

