Needle Gauge

Factors and Their Possible Consequences:

- **Cannula bore gauge too large (lower gauge, eg. 18G):** Blood enters tube faster and more forcefully and may result in haemolysis and disruption of the vein.
- **Cannula bore too small (higher gauge, eg. 25G):** When used with full draw tube, the RBCs may rupture due to excessive aspiration force. Blood travels through an extremely small opening under a great force. This may cause the RBC wall to shear.

Corrective Actions

- Select a needle gauge appropriate for the vein size, location, and patient condition.
- Use special tubes manufactured as partial draws.

References: