Platelet immunofluorescence test: the importance of filtered buffers

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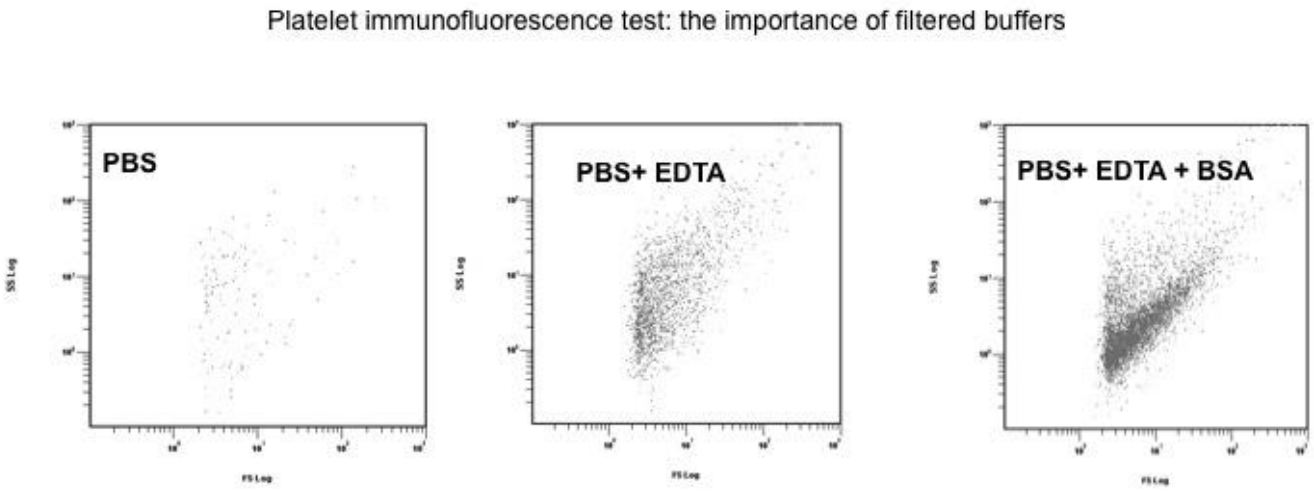

Flow cytometric analysis of platelets can be complicated by unexpected events having the forward and side scatter properties similar to platelets. Phosphate buffered saline (PBS) with added EDTA and bovine serum albumin (BSA) is often used as a wash buffer but can be a source of contaminating events. The figure shows a small number of events when PBS alone was run using settings for platelet analysis, the number of events increased when EDTA was added to the PBS, and further still when BSA was added. These problems can be avoided by filtering (0.2 µm) all wash buffer components and the final buffer. The components should be stored at +4oC, and BSA is best stored as small single use aliquots. Only use wash buffer on the day of preparation, do not store.