Anticoagulants

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Hemostasis is the physiological process by which a bleeding stops after endothelial . Its final result is a thrombus (blood clot), which consists of blood cells and fibrin strands. Hemostasis involves the following mechanisms:

Primary hemostasis.
 Secondary hemostasis .
 Fibrinolysis .
 Inhibition of hemostasis .
 Tests for hemostasis pathways.

Primary hemostasis

1) Vascular hemostasis:

Endothelial injury results in:

□ Neural stimulation reflexes and endothelin release → transient vasoconstriction, leading to:

 \square Reduced blood flow \rightarrow reduced blood loss.

□ Platelet accumulation at the vessel walls Due to increased shear stress.

□ Exposure of subendothelial collagen → circulating von
 Willebrand factor binds to the exposed
 collagen.

Von Willebrand factor (vWF): plasma protein that is synthesized by and stored in endothelial cells (in Weibel-Palade bodies) and platelets (in α-granules)

Mediates platelet adhesion and aggregation.

□ Binds factor VIII (and thereby prevents its degradation).

Primary haemostasis



2) Platelet hemostasis :

Platelet adhesion: platelets bind to vWF via platelet GpIb receptor at the endothelial injury site Ristocetin normally activates vWF to bind to glycoprotein Ib.

Platelet activation: After binding to vWF, platelets change their shape and release mediators that lead to activation of more platelets (positive feedback). These mediators include: • Adenosine diphosphate (ADP): promotes adhesion of platelets to endothelium.

• Thromboxane A2 (TXA2): activates additional platelets and promotes vasoconstriction.

• Calcium: required for secondary hemostasis.

• Platelet-activating factor (PAF): a phospholipid mediator that is produced by platelets and inflammatory cells (e.g., neutrophils, monocytes, macrophages) involved in platelet aggregation and activation and local inflammatory response. □ Platelet aggregation: mediated by GpIIb/IIIa-receptor and fibrinogen → formation of a white thrombus composed of platelets and fibrinogen

A white thrombus is transient, unstable, and easily dislodged. It stabilizes through the process of secondary hemostasis.



Secondary hemostasis :

A processes that lead to stabilization of the platelet plug (white thrombus) by creating a fibrin network :

Coagulation cascade: a sequence of events triggered by the activation of the intrinsic or extrinsic pathway of coagulation that results in the formation of a stable thrombus .

Coagulation factors: Substances that interact with each other to promote blood coagulation.



clotting factors for secondary haemostasis

| | No. | Name | Role | |
|---|-------|---|--|--|
| | Ι | Fibrinogen | Clot formation | |
| | Ш | Prothrombin | Activation of factors I, V, VII, VIII, XI, XIII, protein C and platelets | |
| | 111 | Tissue factor | Cofactor VIIa | |
| | IV | Calcium | Role in binding of phospholipid coagulation factors | |
| | V | Proaccelerin | Cofactor of X – prothrombinase complex | |
| | VI | | Activated form of V | |
| | VII | Proconvertin | Enables factors IX and X | |
| | VIII | Antihemophilic factor A | Cofactor of IX complex | |
| | IX | Antihemophilic factor B or Christmas factor | Enables factor X, forms the complex tensor with factor VIII | |
| | х | Stuart-Prower factor | Forms the prothrombinase complex together with factor V, which will activate factor II | |
| | XI | Antecedent of plasma thromboplastin | Activates factor IX | |
| | XII | Hageman factor | Enables factors XI, VII and prekallikrein | |
| | XIII | Fibrin stabilizing factor | Creating cross-links between fibrin monomers | |
| | XIV | Prekallikrein – Fletcher factor | Precursor of kallikrein | |
| | xv | HMWK – Fitzgerland factor | Cofactor | |
| | XVI | von Willebrand factor | Role in platelet adhesion; it is linked to factor VIII | |
| | XVII | Antithrombin III | Inhibits IIa, Xa and other proteases | |
| | XVIII | Heparin cofactor II | Inhibits Ila | |
| | XIX | Protein C | Inactivates factors Va and VIIIa | |
| T | XX | Protein S | Cofactor for activated C protein | |

HMWK: High-molecular-weight kininogen.



Fibrinolysis :

► Is the degradation of the fibrin network of thrombi by the enzyme plasmin.





Mechanism

 Tissue injury leads to the release and activation of plasminogen activators, which convert plasminogen to its active form plasmin.

- Tissue plasminogen activator (tPA)
- Urokinase (see fibrinolytics)

□ Plasmin breaks down and deactivates
 fibrin and fibrinogen → release of fibrin
 degradation
 products (e.g, D-dimers)



Plasminogen activator inhibitors (e.g., PAI-1) inhibit tPA .
 Plasmin inhibitors (e.g., PPIC).



Inhibition of hemostasis

- Tissue factor pathway inhibitor: inhibits tissue factor.
- Protein C and protein S: Activated protein C and its cofactor protein
- S form the activated protein-C complex (APC complex), which inhibits factors Va and VIIIa.

(IAFI)

- Vitamin K-dependent synthesis in the liver
- □ Shorter half-life than vitamin K-dependent coagulation factors
- (relevant for treatment with vitamin K antagonists, e.g., warfarin)
- Clinical relevance
- APC resistance
- Factor V Leiden
- Protein C deficiency, protein S deficiency

| Inhib | itor | Target protein |
|-------|---|-------------------|
| Tiss | le factor pathway inhibitor (TFPI) | Tissue factor |
| Antit | hrombin | Factor II and X |
| Prote | ein C-protein S | Factor V and VIII |
| Thro | mbin activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor | Fibrin |

• Antithrombin

- Degrades thrombin and factors IXa and Xa.
- □ Activates tissue plasminogen activator (tPA).
- □ Clinical relevance: antithrombin III deficiency (e.g., due to liver failure or kidney failure)
- Nonspecific inhibitors: protease inhibitors in plasma
- (e.g., alpha-1-antitrypsin, alpha-2 macroglobulin).
- Drug-induced: anticoagulant treatment.
- Others
- □ Protein Z (factor X inhibitor).
- □ Heparin-like glycosaminoglycans (boosts antithrombin).
- □ Heparin cofactor II (requires heparin for activation).



FIBRINOLYSIS



Tests for hemostasis pathways:

► The pathway that begins by factor XII is called the intrinsic pathway and the pathway that begins by tissue factor is called the extrinsic pathway. And they are tested separately inside the laboratory.

► The test for the intrinsic pathway is the activated partial thromboplastin time (PTT), to do this test in the lab you take a plasma sample of the patient and add it to a negatively charged substance (silica) and measure the time it takes to form a clot.



► The test of the extrinsic pathway is prothrombin time (PT), in this test tissue factor is added to a sample of patient's plasma and you measure the time it takes to form a clot. (INR=(pt patient /pt normal) ^ISI).

stim the start when

► the final way to test the coagulation cascade is to measure thrombin time, by adding thrombin to a blood sample and measuring the time to form the clot. • PTT normal range: it varies but 25 to 35 seconds is considered normal.

- PT normal range: 11 to 13.5 seconds.
- INR normal range: 0.8-1.1
- Thrombin time: less than 20 seconds (15-19 seconds).

Contact activation (intrinsic) pathway

Tests {Plasma + Ca + kaolin + phospholipid} **PTT** (evaluates: XII, XI, IX, VIII, X, V, II, fibrinogen)

Tissue factor (extrinsic) pathway

Tests {Plasma + Ca + tissue thrombplastin} PT / INR (evaluates: VII, X, V, II, fibrinogen)











Heparin C₁₂H₁₉NO₂₀S₃



<u>Heparin</u>

- 1- Unfractionated heparin (UFH) "Standard heparin .
 - 2- Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin.
 - 3- Synthetic heparin.
 - 4- Heparinoid (glycosaminoglycan).

1) Unfractionated heparin (UFH) "Standard heparin

Mechanism of Action

 Potentiates the action of antithrombin III to primarily inhibit clotting factors IIa and Xa, preventing conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin.
 Half-life of standard heparin is 1 hour.



Administration

□ Therapeutic →intravenously as an initial bolus followed by continuous IV infusion.
 □ Prophylactic → subcutaneously.



Indications for Use

Venous thromboembolism (e.g., DVT, PE).
 Atrial fibrillation in acute setting.
 Acute coronary syndromes (e.g., unstable angina, myocardial infarction).
 DVT prophylaxis in hospitalized patients.
 Monitoring during therapy

PTT or antifactor Xa levels and platelet count.

therapeutic PTT is usually 60 to 90
 seconds, although this varies depending on
 the clinical situation.



Adverse Effects

□ Bleeding.

 \Box heparin-induced thrombocytopenia HIT \rightarrow skin necrosis may occur as a consequence.

 Osteoporosis with chronic use, lower incidence with LMWHs.

□ Transient alopecia.

Rebound hypercoagulability after
 discontinuation due to depression of AT III.

Contraindications

□ History of HIT.

- Active bleeding (e.g., GI bleeding, intracranial bleeding).
- □ Severe thrombocytopenia.
- □ Use with caution in severe HTN or after recent surgery (especially of eyes, spine, brain).

Clearance : Hepatic (preferred agent for patients with renal insufficiency).

Reversing the Effects of Heparin

Antidote protamine sulfate (a positively-charged protein that can neutralize negatively-charged heparin by forming inactive complexes).

□ Administer FFP if severe bleeding occurs.

2- Low–Molecular-Weight Heparin

Drugs:

 enoxaparin, dalteparin, tinzaparin, nadroparin, certoparin.

Administration:

□ subcutaneous

Mechanism of Action:

LMWHs primarily inhibit
 factor Xa (equivalent inhibition
 of factor Xa asstandard
 heparin, but less
 inhibition of factor IIa
 [thrombin]).



Monitoring during therapy :

□ anti-factor Xa activity can be assessed in specific cases.

□ Cannot be monitored by PT or PTT because they do not affect either.

Indications for Use :

□ Similar to standard heparin (e.g., DVT/PE, ACS, DVT prophylaxis) .

□ Used with increasing frequency as compared to standard heparin due to greate convenience (e.g., subcutaneous administration, less frequent monitoring) and decreased risk of side effects (e.g., HIT, osteoporosis).

More expensive than standard heparin, but often more cost-effective in the lon run due to reduced testing, nursing time, and length of hospital stay.

□ Preferred anticoagulant in patients with malignancy.

Contraindications

□ Similar to standard heparin (e.g., history of HIT, active bleeding, severe thrombocytopenia).

□ Use with caution in patients with renal dysfunction (LMWH excreted via Kidneys).

<u>Clearance</u>

□ renal (contraindicated for patients with renal insufficiency).

Antidote

Protamine sulfate (partial reversal Protamine antagonizes
 50% of the effect of LMWH).



| Unfractionated Heparin | | Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Activates anti-thrombin III which forms a complex inhibiting clotting factors IIa and Xa, as well as IX, XI, XII | Mechanism of action | Examples include enoxaparin, tinzaparin Fondaparinux is a synthetic derivative of LMWH Activates anti-thrombin III which forms a complex inhibiting clotting factor Xa |
| Intravenous (IV) | Mode of administration | Subcutaneous (SC) |
| Shorter (~1 hour) | Half-life | Longer (~3-6 hours) Fondaparinux ~17-21 hours |
| Bleeding, osteoporosis, thrombocytopenia (HIT), hyperkalemia (due to hypoaldosteronism) | Side effects | Bleeding, osteoporosis, thrombocytopenia (HIT), hyperkalemia (due to hypoaldosteronism) |
| Rapidly reversible by protamine sulphate Useful in situations where rapid reversal required | Reversibility | Partially reversible by protamine sulphate |
| Useful in renal failure | Use in renal failure | Use with caution/avoid if GFR <30 due to increased risk of bleeding |
| Higher risk compared to LMWH | Risk of HIT | Lower risk of HIT No risk of HIT when using fondaparinux |

3- Synthetic heparin:

Drugs

 \Box fondaparinux.

Administration

- □ subcutaneous Monitoring during therapy.
- □ Not generally recommended.
- □ Anti-factor Xa activity can be assessed in specific cases.

Antidote

possibly activated prothrombin complex concentrates (aPCC)





Drugs:

 \Box danaparoid

Administration

 \Box Prophylaxis \rightarrow subcutaneous \Box Therapeutic \rightarrow continuous intravenous infusion

Monitoring during therapy □ anti-factor Xa activity

Antidote

□ protamine sulfate (partial reversal)

Principal Disaccharide – Repeating Units

OSO 7 'coo-0 0 OH OH 0 0S0 : SO;

(LMW) heparins

danaparoid

COO'

OSO 3

OH



glucosamine N-sulphate and iduronic acid 2-sulfate



<u>Warfarin</u>

Mechanism of Action

 Inhibits action of vitamin K epoxide reductase, an enzyme required for the hepatic synthesis of vitamin K-dependent coagulation factors, leading to a decrease in factors II, VII, IX, X, and proteins C and S.



Warfarin Mechanism of Action

Administration

Given orally .Broad range of interactions.

 Requires periprocedural bridging anticoagulation (heparin).

Once PTT is therapeutic on heparin alone, initiate warfarin.

 Continue heparin for at least 4 days after starting warfarin.

Once INR is therapeutic on warfarin,
 stop the heparin.

INR Elevation Amiodarone (2C9) Ciprofloxacin (1A2/3A4) TMP/SMX (2C9) Metronidazole (2C9/3A4) Fluconazole (2C9/3A4) Fluvastatin (2C9) Fluvoxamine (2C9) Isoniazid (2C9) Lovastatin (2C9) Phenylbutazone (2C9) Sertraline (2C9) Gemfibrozil (2C9) Ethanol (1A2) Clarithromycin (3A4) Erythromycin (3A4) Voriconazole (3A4)

*INR Depression

Rifampin (2C9) Secobarbital (2C9) Carbamazepine (2C9) Phenytoin (2C9) Phenobarbital (2C9) Primidone (2C9) St John's wort (2C9) Cigarette smoking (1A2) Charbroiled food (1A2)

Monitoring during therapy (routinely monitored):

Prothrombin time (PT)/ INR (in most cases, INR of 2 to 3 is therapeutic. In patients with mechanical heart valves have goal INR of 2.5 to 3.5)
 No change to PTT or TT.
 WEPT: Warfarin Extrinsic pathway PT

Indications for Use :

□ Thromboembolism prophylaxis (e.g., DVT/PE, stroke secondary to atrial fibrillation).

Preferred anticoagulant for patients with mechanical heart valves or antiphospholipid antibody syndrome.



Bleeding



Contraindications

□ Active bleeding.

 Pregnancy (warfarin is a teratogen), use in breastfeeding women is not contraindicated.

□ Use with caution in alcoholics or any patient prone to frequent falls due to potential for intracranial bleeding.

Reversing the Effects of Warfarin

 \Box Discontinue warfarin \rightarrow takes 5 days to correct due to the long half-life of warfarin.

□ Administer vitamin K \rightarrow takes 12 to 24 hours to correct due to the time required for the liver to synthesize new clotting factors.

 \Box Transfuse FFP \rightarrow may take up to 8 hours to correct due to the time required for transfusion.

 □ Administer unactivated prothrombin-complex concentrates (PCC) → replaces vitamin K-dependent coagulation factors and corrects within 10 minutes of administration.

| | Heparin | Warfarin |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Pathway | Affects the intrinsic pathway | Affects the extrinsic pathway |
| MOA | Inactivates thrombin and factor Xa | Inhibits synthesis of clotting factors |
| Route | IV or subQ | PO |
| Teratogenic | Does not cross placenta or into breast milk | Crosses placenta (teratogenic) |
| Onset | Rapid (minutes) | Slow (hours) |
| Duration | Brief (hours) | Prolonged (days) |
| Drug interactions | Few drug interactions | Many drug interactions |
| Elimination | Eliminated renally | Eliminated hepatically |
| Monitoring | aPTT | PT |
| Antidote | Protamine | Phytomenadione (Vitamin K) |

3) Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOA):

1)Direct factor Xa inhibitors :

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Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban.

□ Selective and direct inhibition of factor Xa (as opposed to potentiating AT III like heparin).

□ Prolonged PT and PTT, unchanged thrombin time (not routinely monitored).

□ Currently approved for treatment of DVT/PE, DVT/PE prophylaxis, and stroke prophylaxis in patients with atrial fibrillation.



2)Direct thrombin (factor II) inhibitors :

🗆 Lepirudin, Argatroban, Dabigatran.

□ Selective thrombin antagonist inhibit thrombin directly.

□ Prolonged thrombin time (TT), no change to PTT or PT (not routinely monitored).

Currently approved for treatment of heparin induced thrombocytopenia HIT.



3)General notes regarding oral anticoagulation:

Indications for all oral anticoagulants

□ Prophylaxis of thromboembolism following:

- DVT and/or pulmonary embolism.
- Prolonged immobilization after surgery (e.g., especially in knee or hip surgery)

□ Nonvalvular atrial fibrillation.

Direct factor Xa inhibitors and direct thrombin inhibitors adverse effect:

- Dose-dependent increased risk of bleeding
 Interventional steps to stop the bleeding
- $\hfill\square$ If life-threatening bleeding occurs, administer PCC
- General management and specific medication antidotes
- Antifibrinolytic agents (e.g., tranexamic acid)
- Oral activated charcoal reduces absorption if anticoagulants were ingested in the past couple of

hours.

- Apixaban and rivaroxaban: and exanet alfa (recombinant modified factor Xa protein)
- Dabigatran: idarucizumab (monoclonal antibody)



