APTT
ellagic

Reagents for the determination of Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time

SUMMARY
The Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT) is a test sensitive to the deficiency of the plasma coagulation promoting factors, as well as to the presence of certain coagulation inhibitors. It detects disorders in the coagulation intrinsic pathway, such as the necessary factors for the formation of the intrinsic prothrombin activator - i.e. factors VIII, IX, XI and XII. It also detects serious deficiencies in the factors II, V, X, and fibrinogen, but not the platelet disorders, the deficiencies in the factors VII and XIII nor vascular problems. The test's speed, simplicity and reproducibility make it adequate for monitoring heparin anticoagulant therapy. It also allows the quick identification of potential hemophiliacs so that they can be subjected to pre-surgical preventive treatment to avoid bleeding problems.

PRINCIPLE
The assay is based on measuring the Coagulation time of a decalcified plasma placed on a water bath at 37° C and in the presence of an excess of cephalin, activator and calcium.

PROVIDED REAGENTS
Reagent: vials containing cephalin with ellagic acid as a soluble activator.
Calcium Chloride: 0.025 mol/l stable calcium chloride solution.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
Reagent: ready to use. Homogenize before use.
Calcium Chloride: ready to use.

WARNINGS
Reagents are for “in vitro” diagnostic use.

STABILITY AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS
Provided Reagents are stable in refrigerator (2-10°C) until the expiration date shown on the box. Do not freeze.

SAMPLE
Plasma
a) Collection: obtain blood carefully using plastic syringes (avoid stasis or trauma) and place into a tube with anticoagulant in an exact 9+1 proportion (e.g.: 4.5 ml blood + 0.5ml anticoagulant). Mix gently. Centrifuge and separate the plasma before 30 minutes.

b) Additives: use 0.130 mol/l sodium citrate as anticoagulant to obtain plasma.
c) Known interfering substances:
- Contaminations whether visible or not lead to falsely prolonged times.
- Do not use EDTA or heparin to obtain plasma.
- Visible hemolysis makes difficult the photo-optic measurement of the results.
See Young, D.S. in References for effect of drugs on the present method.
d) Stability and storage instructions: the plasma should be kept in the refrigerator (2-10°C) until the test is performed. This period should not be extended for more than 4 hours. If the assay cannot be performed within this period, freeze the plasma at -20°C. It should be quickly frozen and thawed (immersing the sample tube in a 37°C water bath) just before testing. Kept the sample in plastic tubes until assayed to minimize the contact activation that may occur with glass tubes.

REQUIRED MATERIAL (non-provided)
- Hemolysis tubes
- Pipettes and micropipettes for measuring the stated volumes
- Water bath at 37°C
- Stopwatch
- Light source, for clot observation

PROCEDURE
Warm the Calcium Chloride in water bath at 37°C before performing the test. In a hemolysis tube place:

| Sample (unknown plasma or control) | 100 ul |
| Reagent | 100 ul |
| Mix and incubate 3 minutes at 37°C. Then add: | |
| Calcium Chloride (at 37°C) | 100 ul |
Start stopwatch simultaneously. Shake briefly to homogenize content and keep in water bath for 25 seconds. Then remove the tube from the water bath, tilt gently once every second and stop the stopwatch when a clot is formed. Automatic or semi-automatic instruments, capable of detecting fibrin clot forma-tion by photo-optic or mechanic methods, can be used to read the results. Record the coagulation time.
INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS
The results may be expressed as:
1) The Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time in seconds
2) The ratio between the time obtained with the unknown and the time obtained with a control plasma

QUALITY CONTROL METHOD
Control Plasma normal/pathologic.

REFERENCE VALUES
The reference value range observed in normal individuals, with the mentioned manual technique, vary between 30-43 seconds. Values which differ in more than 6 seconds with a normal control plasma are not considered within the normal range.

It is recommended that each laboratory processes a pool of normal plasma with each lot of reagents used and to correlate the patients' values with that of the control plasma, recording the results in the report. Each laboratory should establish its own reference values based on the techniques and devices used, as the APTT values of healthy individuals vary with each laboratory depending on the technique used.

CALIBRATION CURVE
This method is useful to control the patients’ response to heparin when treated with this anticoagulant. The technique used is the following:
Prepare heparin Working Solution in saline solution with a concentration of 10 units/ml. Use the same heparin administered to the patient. Prepare dilutions of this Working Solution using a pool of fresh normal plasmas as diluent. Dilutions of 0.8; 0.6; 0.4; 0.2 and 0.1 units/ml, should be obtained. Determine the partial thromboplastin time for each of these solutions as well as for the plasma pool. Plot APTT vs. Heparin concentration on semilog graph paper. The value obtained for the patient should be correlated with the values on the graph to obtain current concentration of circulating heparin.

PROCEDURE LIMITATIONS
See Known interfering substances and Stability and storage instructions under SAMPLE. The coagulation process involves a series of enzymatic reactions, which might be influenced by any condition affecting enzymatic systems in general, that is why methodological cautions should be taken. Consider that variations in the ratio anticoagulant / sample or in the citrate concentration used, affect activated partial thromboplastin times, thus, it is recommended to check the anticoagulant dose used for sample collection.

PERFORMANCE
Reproducibility: processing replicates of the same samples on the same day, the following results were obtained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>C.V.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43 sec</td>
<td>± 1.2 sec</td>
<td>2.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 sec</td>
<td>± 1.7 sec</td>
<td>2.6 %</td>
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</tbody>
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KIT SIZE
Kits for 150 tests (6 x 2.5 ml) (Cat-Nr. CH 412)

REFERENCES