

Algorithm for Laboratory Investigations in Case of a Prolonged APTT

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The accurate detection and quantification of non-physiological coagulation inhibitors remains a challenging problem for most diagnostic laboratories. Prolonged screening assays and abnormal results of mixing tests with normal plasma may indicate the presence of such inhibitors. However, the presence of lupus anticoagulant, heparin, and/or potential contamination of plasma with therapeutically active antithrombotic drugs has to be ruled out. A putative positive result needs to be confirmed with specific inhibitor tests in order to come to a differential diagnosis. Most important for an optimal analysis result is the use of a clear step-by-step procedure that enables the recognition of all possible abnormalities and ensure time- as well as cost-effectiveness.

Therefore, we present here a diagnostic algorithm for the screening, differential diagnosis and confirmation of acquired coagulation inhibitors⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Myriam Dardikh, Piet Meijer, Felix van der Meer, Emmanuel J. Favalaro, Bert Verbruggen. Acquired Functional Coagulation Inhibitors: Review on Epidemiology, Results of a Wet-Workshop on Laboratory Detection, and Implications for Quality of Inhibitor Diagnosis. *SeminThrombHemost* 2012; 38(06): 613-621