

# KOAGÜLASYON LABORATUVARINDA KALİTE

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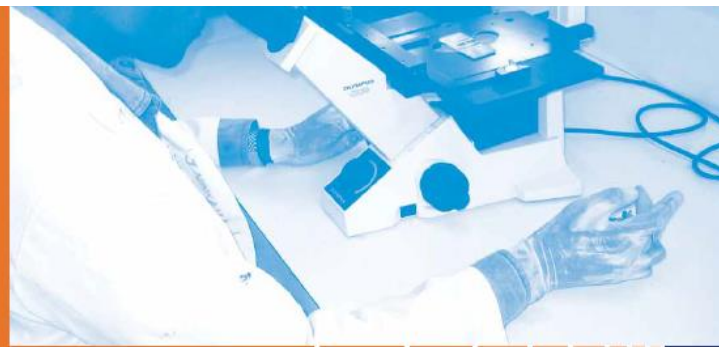
# Laboratuvar Testlerinde Kalite



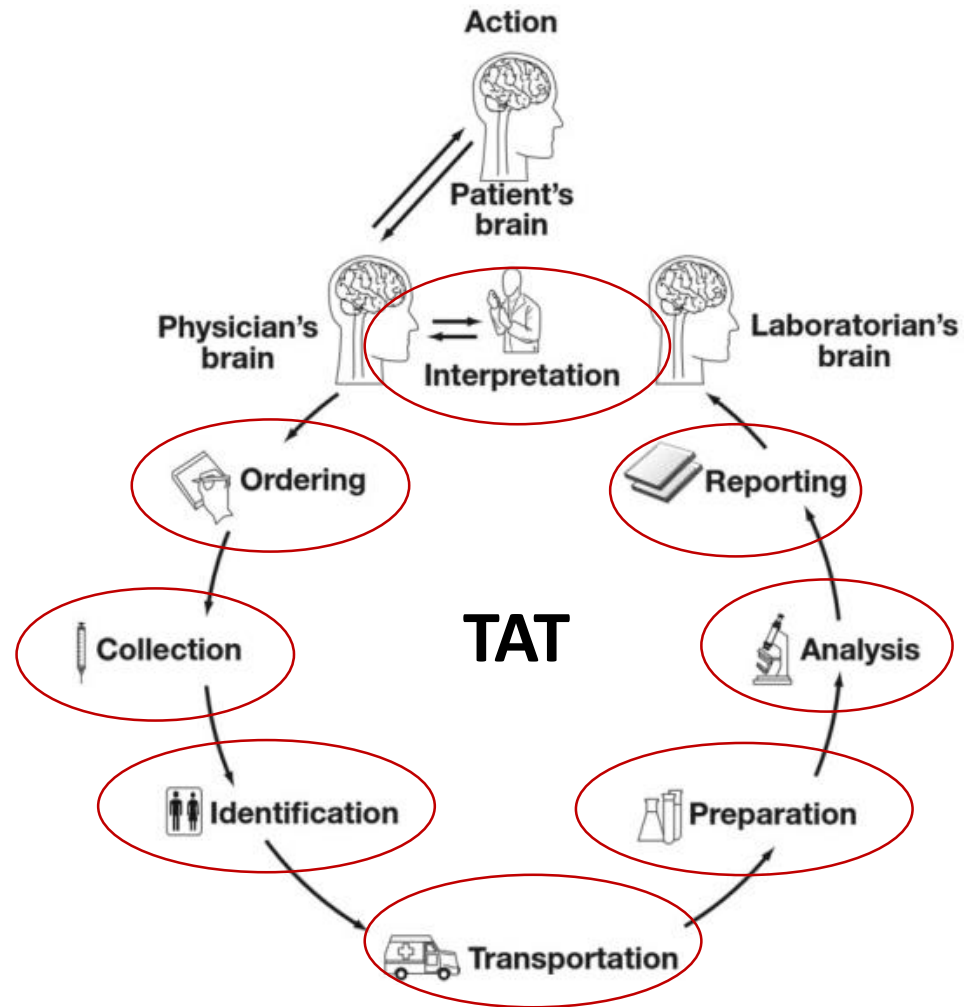
Laboratory  
Quality  
Management

## Definition of quality

Laboratory quality can be defined as accuracy, reliability and timeliness of reported test results. The laboratory results must be as accurate as possible, all aspects of the laboratory operations must be reliable, and reporting must be timely in order to be useful in a clinical or public health setting.



# Kaliteli Test ne anlama gelir?

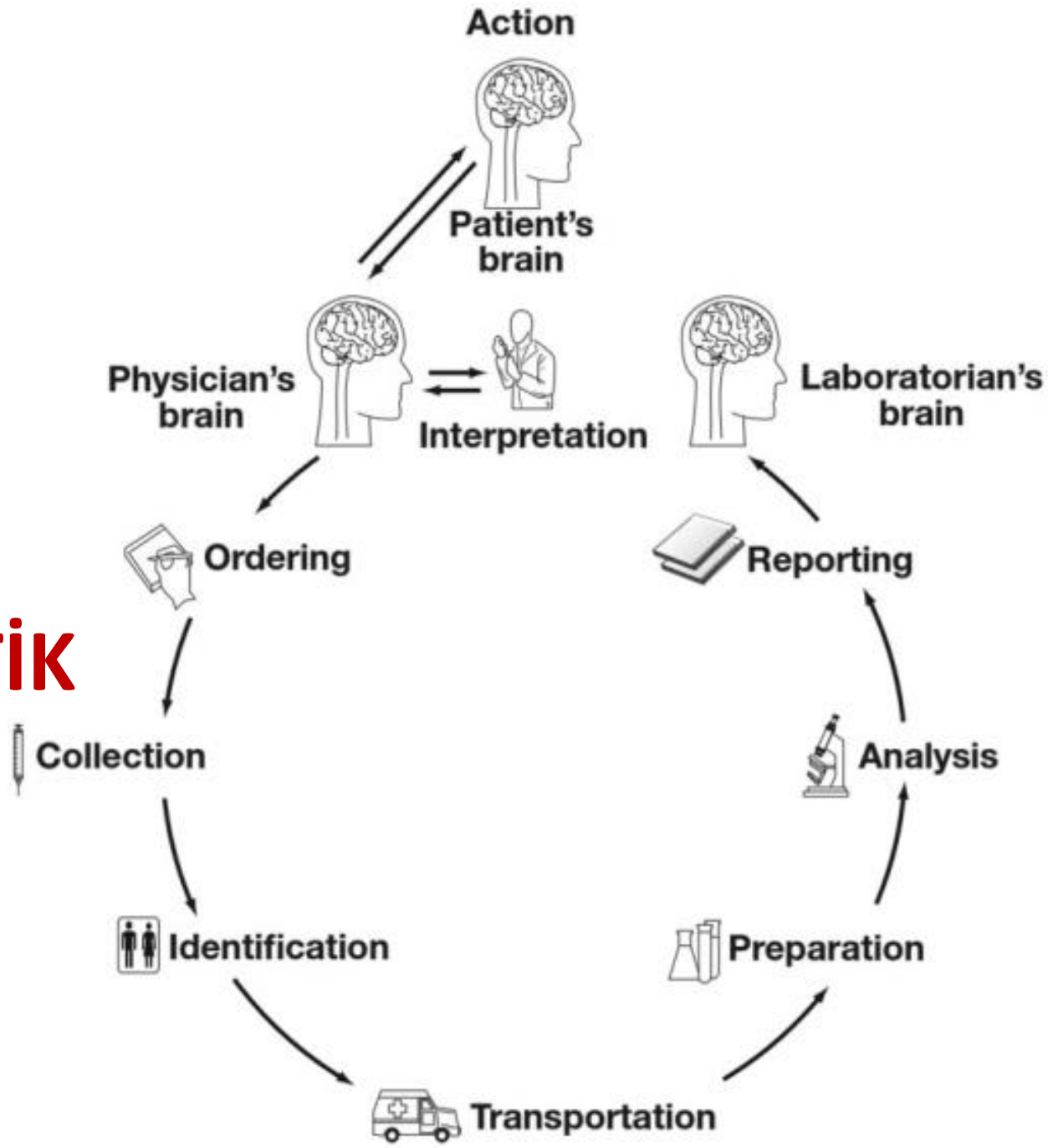


# Koagölasyon Testlerinde Kalite

Testin kalitesi =Hasta güvenliđi

Toplam test sürecinin her basamađında kalitenin sađlanması gerekli

# PREANALİTİK EVRE



# Preanalitik Kalite – Genel Sorunlar

- Test isteminin olmaması – yanlış olması
- Örneğin laboratuvara ulaşmaması
- Hatalı etiketleme
- İnfüzyon ile kontaminasyon
- Hemolizli/pıhtılı/yetersiz örnek
- Uygun olmayan antikoagülan/kan oranı
- Uygun olmayan transfer ve saklama koşulları

# Preanalitik Kalite

## Test isteminde sorunlar

Bilgi eksikliği

Artan kompleks test sayısı

Kılavuzların takibinde eksiklik

Alternatif antikoagülanlara uygun testlerin henüz bulunmaması

Klinik – laboratuvar iletişimde sorunlar

# Preanalitik Kalite

## Uygun/suz/gereksiz test isteminde zmler

Geri bildirim

Eđitim

Bilgisayar yardımlı test istemi – LBYS’de algoritmalar

Talep ynetimi kılavuzları

Refleks ve reflektif test kullanımı – daha proaktif bir laboratuvar



**TABLE 1** *Choosing Wisely* recommendations related to hematology and coagulation laboratory testing.<sup>4</sup> ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists, MTHFR: methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase, HFE: hemochromatosis gene

Category	Recommendation	Society
Serial blood counts	Don't perform serial blood counts on clinically stable patients	AABB
	Don't order diagnostic tests at regular intervals (such as every day), but rather in response to specific clinical questions	Critical Care Societies Collaborative
	Don't perform repetitive CBC and chemistry testing in the face of clinical and lab stability	Society of Hospital Medicine
Thrombophilia testing	Don't test for thrombophilia in adult patients with venous thromboembolism (VTE) occurring in the setting of major transient risk factors (surgery, trauma, or prolonged immobility)	American Society of Hematology
	Don't routinely order thrombophilia testing on patients undergoing routine infertility evaluation	American Society for Reproductive Medicine
	Don't do an inherited thrombophilia evaluation for women with histories of pregnancy loss, intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR), preeclampsia, and abruption	Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
	Don't do work up for clotting disorder (order hypercoagulable testing) for patients who develop first episode of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in the setting of a known cause	Society for Vascular Medicine
Preoperative blood count and coagulation testing	Don't obtain baseline laboratory studies in patients without significant systemic disease (ASA I or II) undergoing low-risk surgery—specifically complete blood count, basic or comprehensive metabolic panel—coagulation studies when blood loss (or fluid shifts) is/are expected to be minimal	American Society of Anesthesiologists
	Avoid routine preoperative testing for low-risk surgeries without a clinical indication	American Society for Clinical Pathology
	Don't perform routine preoperative testing before low-risk surgical procedures	Society of General Internal Medicine

Genetic testing for hematologic disorders	Don't order MTHFR genetic testing for the risk assessment of hereditary thrombophilia	American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
	Don't order HFE genetic testing for a patient without iron overload or a family history of HFE-associated hereditary hemochromatosis	American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
Other	In patients with low pretest probability of venous thromboembolism (VTE), obtain a high-sensitive D-dimer measurement as the initial diagnostic test; don't obtain imaging studies as the initial diagnostic test	American College of Physicians
	Don't use bleeding time test to guide patient care	American Society for Clinical Pathology
	Don't order an erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) to look for inflammation in patients with undiagnosed conditions. Order a C-reactive protein (CRP) to detect acute phase inflammation	American Society for Clinical Pathology
	Don't test vitamin K levels unless the patient has an abnormal international normalized ratio (INR) and does not respond to vitamin K therapy	American Society for Clinical Pathology
	Don't test or treat for suspected heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) in patients with a low pretest probability of HIT	American Society of Hematology

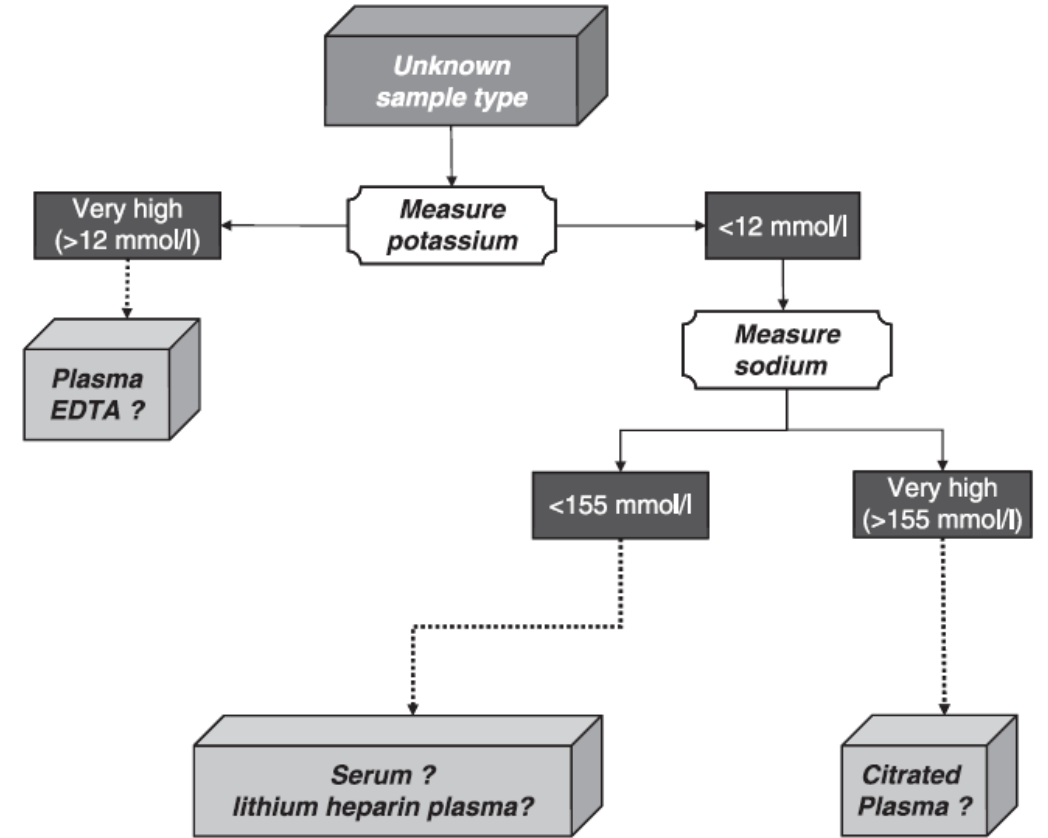
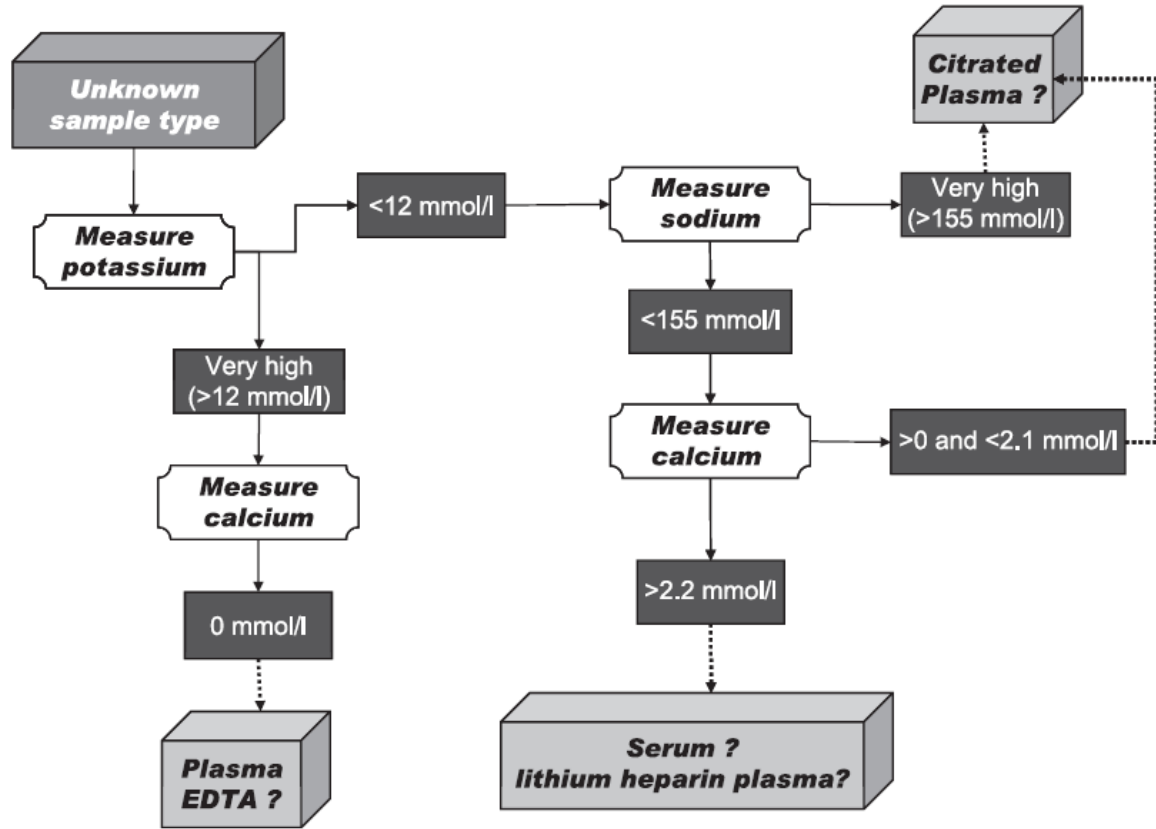
# Preanalitik Değişkenler – Hasta kaynaklı

- Açlık tokluk durumu – açlık öneriliyor; hafif öğünün etkisi?
- Gebelik – FVIII, fibrinojen artışı; plt, vWF, prt S azalışı
- Egzersiz, kahve, sigara – trombosit fonksiyon testleri
- Sirkadiyen ritm (agregasyon en fazla sabah) – TFT
- Yüksek veya düşük hematokrit
- Egzersiz
- Tedavi durumu – K vitamini, heparin, DOAC

# Örnek Alımı

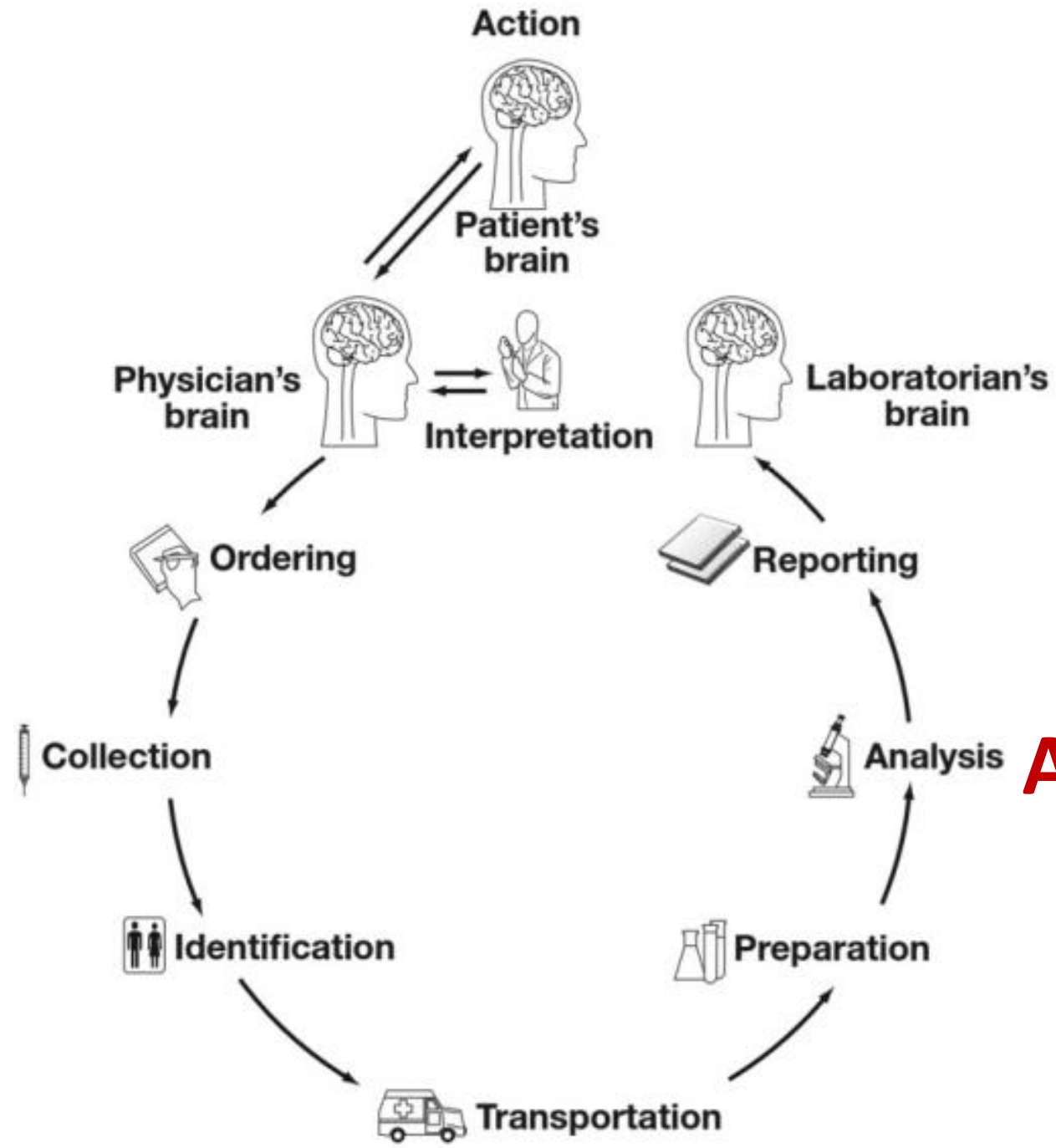
- Sıkı turnike uygulamasından kaçınılmalı
- En az 21 gauge enjektör
- Minimal travmatik, düzgün kan akımı
- Anında 3 – 6 kez karıştırma
- Miktar kontrolü; işaretli seviyeye kadar dolum
- Aşırı karıştırma-sallamaya maruz kalmamalı
- Sitratlı tüp: Trisodyum sitrat 109 mM (3.2%) veya 129 mM (3.8%)

# Sekonder Tüp Kullanımı - Yanlış Örnek Gönderilmesi



# Örnek transferi – stabilite sorunları

- Oda sıcaklığında transfer – en geç 1 saat içinde
- Trombosit fonksiyon testleri – en geç 3-4 saat içinde
- Pnömatik sistem uygun değil
- Dondurularak saklanan örnekler – en fazla 15 gün
- Don-çöz döngüsünü tekrarlamak uygun değil



**ANALİTİK EVRE**

# Analitik Kalite – İ Kalite Kontrol

- Kanada'da PT ve APTT alıřan 174 laboratuvarda yapılan anket
- İKK uygulamaları hakkında bilgi amalı
- Laboratuvarların tamamı (% 100) 2 dzey İKK alıřıyor
- % 12'si ilave olarak hasta rneęinden oluřturulan havuz numunesi de kullanıyor



# Analitik Kalite – İ Kalite Kontrol

İKK sıklığı:

- % 68'i her vardiya başı İKK örneđi alıřıyor
- % 6'sı her günün bařlangıcında İKK örneđi alıřıyor
- % 56'sı bakım, reaktif deđiřikliđi, vardiya esnasında, her tekrar örneđi ile İKK örneđi alıřıyor
- % 25'i belli bir süre cihaz alıřmayınca da İKK alıřıyor

# İç Kalite Kontrol

- % 71'i üretici önerisine göre İKK sıklığını belirliyor
- % 27'si testin stabilitesine göre İKK sıklığını belirliyor
- % 27'si hatalı sonucun klinik önemine göre İKK sıklığını belirliyor

# İç Kalite Kontrol

İKK sınırları:

% 66 – SD

% 46 – Kesinlik hedefleri

% 36 – İzin verilebilir limitler

İKK Değerlendirme:

% 95 Multirule!!!

# İç Kalite Kontrol

İKK sonucu kabul edilebilir değil ise

% 90 – İKK tekrarı, ancak hasta sonucu veriliyor

% 42 – bir önceki QC'den tüm hastaları tekrar ediyor

Test Adı	Düzyey 1 kontrol hedefi	Düzyey 2 kontrol hedefi	Ek öneriler
<b>Rutin koagülasyon testleri (PZ, INR, APTZ, TZ)</b>	Referans aralığının orta noktası	Terapötik aralığının orta noktası (yüksek düzey)	Terapötik/anormal aralığının üst noktası
<b>Fibrinojen</b>	Referans aralığının orta veya alt noktası	Anormal (düşük düzey) aralığının orta noktası	Tromboz riski varsa aralığının üst noktası
<b>D-dimer</b>	Normal aralığının orta veya alt noktası (negatif kontrol)	Anormal (pozitif) aralığının orta noktası (pozitif kontrol)	DIC monitorizasyonunda aralığının üst sınırı
<b>Faktör testleri (FII,VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII)</b>	Referans aralığının orta veya alt noktası (ör, %90-100)	Anormal (düşük düzey) aralığının orta noktası (ör, %20-40)	Faktör eksik plazma – testin alt sınırı için; aralığının üst noktası – tromboz riski için
<b>FXIII</b>	Normal plazma (negatif kontrol)	FXIII eksik plazma (pozitif kontrol)	
<b>vWF testi</b>	Referans aralığının orta veya alt noktası (ör, %90-100)	Anormal (düşük düzey) aralığının orta noktası (ör, %20-40)	vWF eksik plazma – testin alt sınırı için; aralığının üst noktası – tromboz riski için; kalitatif kontrol
<b>Protein C, Protein S, Anti-trombin testleri</b>	Referans aralığının orta veya alt noktası	Anormal (düşük düzey) aralığının orta noktası veya heterozigot kontrol	
<b>Aktive protein C rezistansı</b>	Referans aralığının orta veya alt noktası	Anormal (düşük düzey) aralığının orta noktası veya heterozigot kontrol	
<b>Lupus antikoagülan testi</b>	Negatif kontrol	Pozitif kontrol (zayıf pozitif veya eşik değeri civarı)	Pozitif kontrol (orta veya kuvvetli pozitif)

# Analitik Kalite

- Hasta sonucu bazlı QC???
- Literatürde koagülasyon testlerinde yeri???

# Analitik Kalite

- Koagülasyon testlerinde hasta başı testleri (POCT)
- Henüz çok yaygın değil
- Hastalara eğitim gerekli
- Kliniklerde kullanıcı eğitimi???

# Dış Kalite Değerlendirme

- Koagülasyon testlerinde kullanımı
- Örnek tipi? – plazma
- Liyofilize

Contrived samples – doğal olmayan örnekler

- Faktör testleri
- Trombofili testleri
- vWF değerlendirilmesi
- SF ile dilue örnekler???



# Dış Kalite Değerlendirme

- DKD test menüsünün genişliği?
- Programın sıklığı?
- DKD sonuçlarının değerlendirilmesi

# Dış Kalite Değerlendirme

- Konvansiyonel DKD programları

Analitik DKD

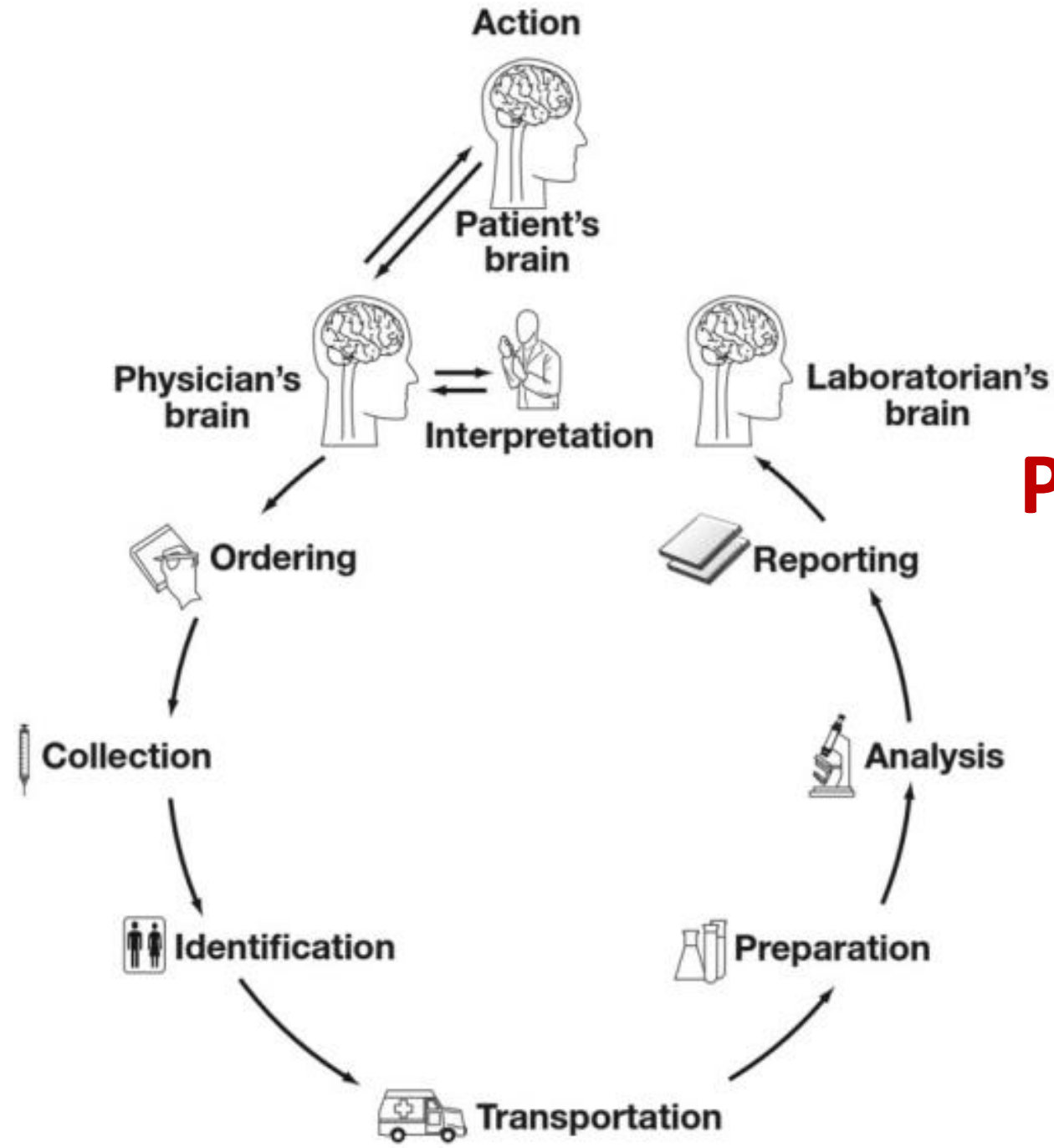
- Ekstra-analitik kısmın değerlendirilmesi???

# Dış Kalite Değerlendirme

- Integrated EQA – bütünleşik DKD
- ISO 15189:2012 5.6.3.1 ile uyumlu – analiz dışında analiz öncesi ve sonrası prosedürlerin de gözden geçirildiği bir laboratuvarlar arası karşılaştırma programı
- Örnek: LabQuality D-dimer  
Preanalitik vakalar – elektronik ortam  
Sorunlu örnekler (normal örneklerin dışında)  
Postanalitik vakalar – elektronik ortam

NASCOLA EQA (ABD)





# POSTANALİTİK EVRE

# Postanalitik Kalite

- Birimler konusunda klinisyenin dikkati çekilmeli
- Örnek: D-Dimer
- $1 \text{ ng/mL DDU} = 2 \text{ ng/mL FEU}$
- D-Dimer Unit
- Fibrinogen Equivalent Unit

# Postanalitik Kalite – Kritik Değerler

**Table 1.** Essential elements of critical laboratory values in hemostasis testing as for current literature.

	CLSI	IFCC	CAP <sup>a</sup>	CCMB	NASCOLA <sup>b</sup>	Campbell et al <sup>b</sup>	Piva et al <sup>b</sup>
References	(8)	(27)	(23)	(29)	(24)	(26)	(28)
APTT (sec)							
Low	-	-	<16.2	-	-	<12.0	-
High	>100	>75	>92.9	>75	>100	>82.5	>85
APTT (ratio)							
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PT (sec)							
Low	-	-	-	<15	-	<8	-
High	-	-	-	>40	>37	>30	-
PT (ratio)							
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PT (INR)							
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High	≥5.0	-	-	≥5.0	>5.0	>4.75	-
Fibrinogen (g/L)							
Low	-	<0.8	-	<0.8	<1.0	<1.0	-
High	-	-	-	-	-	>7.0	-
Platelet count (×10 <sup>9</sup> /L)							
Low	<40 <sup>(c)</sup>	<20	<38.5	<20	-	<20	<30
High	>999	>1000	>963	>1000	-	>1000	>900
D-dimer							
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High	-	Positive	-	Positive	>0.4 ng/mL	-	-

CCMB: Croatian Chamber of Medical Biochemists; CLSI: Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute; IFCC: International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine; NASCOLA: North American Specialized Coagulation Laboratory Association.

<sup>a</sup>Mean value from survey responses.

<sup>b</sup>Median value from survey responses

<sup>c</sup><20 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L in patients aged <20 years.

# Postanalitik Kalite – Kritik Değerler

**Table 3.** Most frequent causes of critical test results in hemostasis.

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## Markedly prolonged APTT

- Preanalytical error (e.g. wrong sample matrix, sample contamination, inappropriate blood-to-anticoagulant ratio)
- Severe factor XII deficiency (not clinically important)
- Acquired or congenital hemophilia, potentially with inhibitors present
- Patient on anticoagulant therapy (e.g. unfractionated heparin, dabigatran, vitamin K antagonists; including overdose)
- Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)
- Strong lupus anticoagulant (LA) when using a LA-sensitive reagent

## Markedly prolonged PT

- Preanalytical error (e.g. wrong sample matrix, sample contamination, inappropriate blood-to-anticoagulant ratio)
- Patient on anticoagulant therapy (e.g. vitamin K antagonists, rivaroxaban; including overdose)
- Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)
- Liver disease/vitamin K deficiency

## Markedly decreased fibrinogen

- Acute liver dysfunction
- Consumption (e.g. disseminated intravascular coagulation; DIC)
- Congenital deficiency of fibrinogen

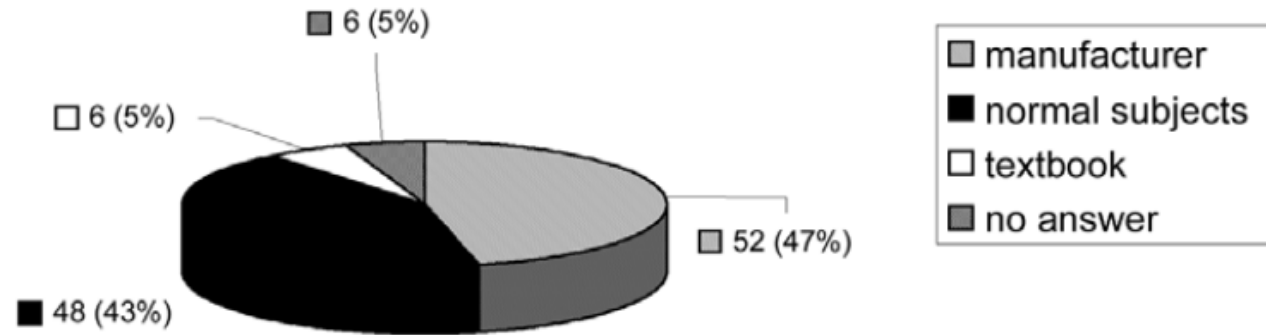
## Markedly decreased platelet count (“thrombocytopenia”)

- Reduced production (drugs, bone marrow infections, leukemias, other types of cancer)
- Increased consumption (e.g. disseminated intravascular coagulation; DIC; heparin-induced thrombocytopenia; HIT)

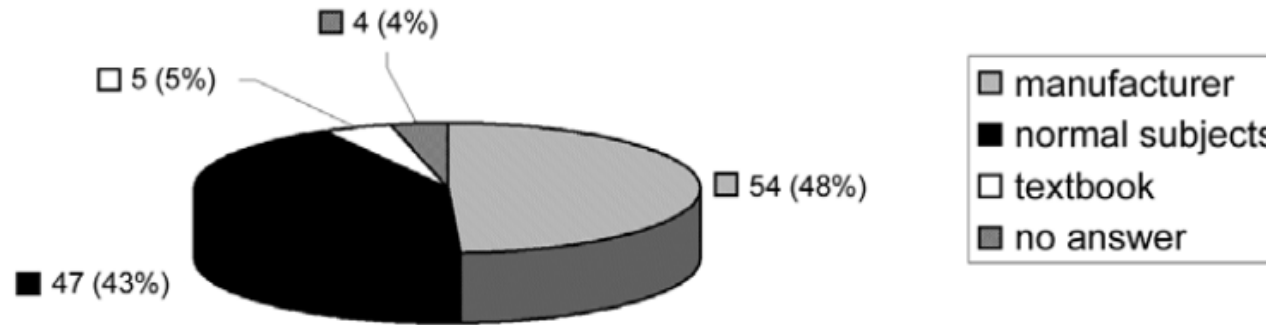
## Markedly increased platelet count (“thrombocytosis”)

- Severe acute infections
- Cancer

# Postanalitik Kalite – Referans Aralıklar



(a) PT (n = 112)



(b) APTT (n = 110)

The sources of reference range for PT (a), and APTT (b): laboratories derive reference ranges either from the manufacturer's instructions or from a textbook or establish their own using normal subjects, the percentage of laboratories is shown in bracket



# Postanalitik Kalite – Notlar ve Yorumlar

Test	Test result	Sample comments
PT/INR	VKA therapy	Provide therapeutic range. Example: INR ranges suggested for patients stabilized on vitamin K antagonist therapy (e.g., warfarin): prosthetic heart valves, 2.5–3.5; most other indications, 2.0–3.0
APTT	UH therapy	Provide therapeutic range. Example: recommended APTT range for patients on unfractionated heparin therapy: 60–100 s
D-dimer	Negative result	A negative d-dimer combined with a structured clinical assessment giving a low pretest probability has a high (>97%) negative predictive value for recent DVT or PE in an outpatient setting
D-dimer	Positive result	A positive d-dimer is non-specific and does not establish a recent venous thromboembolism. Although high levels occur immediately after a thrombotic episode, concomitant non-thrombotic conditions (pregnancy, cancer, infections, surgery, trauma) need to be excluded
Antithrombin	Low level	Reduced antithrombin level detected. Congenital deficiencies of antithrombin are very rare. Low levels of antithrombin may occur immediately after a thrombotic episode, during heparin therapy, in liver disease, or from a consumptive coagulopathy, hemodilution, and in nephrotic syndrome, following L-asparaginase therapy or a blood collection artifact (including hemolysis). Please exclude these events and repeat the test 1 week after cessation of any anticoagulant therapy
Protein C and/or protein S	Low level	Reduced protein C [and/or S] level detected. Congenital deficiencies of protein C [and/or S] are very rare. Low levels of protein C [and/or S] can occur immediately after a thrombotic episode, with anticoagulant or vitamin K antagonist therapy (e.g., warfarin), vitamin K deficiency or liver disease, on hormone replacement/oral contraceptive therapy/during pregnancy/with nephrotic syndrome [protein S] or from a consumptive coagulopathy, hemodilution, or a blood collection artifact. Please exclude these events and repeat the test 6 weeks after cessation of any anticoagulant therapy
Protein C and/or protein S	Low level—some methods (e.g., some clot-based assays)	[Might need additional comment regarding possibility of interference by APCr or DOACs depending on assay/reagents used]
Protein C and/or protein S	Elevated—clot-based assay	[Might need comment regarding possibility of interference from LA]

# Postanalitik Kalite – Notlar ve Yorumlar

Protein S	Elevated—LIA-based assay	[Might need comment regarding possibility of interference from rheumatoid factor]
Activated protein C resistance	Any result	Individuals with lupus anticoagulant, factor inhibitors, factor deficiencies, or on anticoagulant therapy [including DOACs] may not provide reliable assay results
Lupus anticoagulant test	Prolongation in screen test/mixing study, but unclear correction using confirmatory test	Equivocal test result. If patient is on anticoagulant therapy (vitamin K antagonist, heparin, or DOAC), repeat testing when therapy has ceased. Otherwise, result may indicate presence of another inhibitor (e.g., FV or FVIII); please discuss with laboratory as further testing may be required
Lupus anticoagulant test	Positive result	Suggest repeat testing in 12 weeks for confirmation
Anticardiolipin antibody	Negative	Some patients with antiphospholipid syndrome have undetectable anticardiolipin antibodies. Lupus anticoagulant testing suggested
Anticardiolipin antibody	Low/equivocal/positive	The risk of clinical symptoms in the antiphospholipid syndrome appears to rise with increasing levels of IgG anticardiolipin antibodies. Repeat testing (after 12 weeks) is recommended, as is lupus anticoagulant testing. Transient low level/positive results generally are of questionable clinical significance
Anticardiolipin antibody	IgG negative/IgM positive	IgM anticardiolipin antibodies are less specific than IgG anticardiolipin antibodies for the antiphospholipid antibody syndrome. Transient IgM aCL may be found in a range of other inflammatory, infectious, and malignant disorders, and rheumatoid factors may also produce false-positive results. Repeat testing (after 12 weeks) is recommended, as is lupus anticoagulant testing
Factor assays	Low levels	[Depending on factor and pattern of test results, consider the possibility of comments and further discriminatory testing related to possible interference with heparin (e.g., low FVIII, IX, XI, and XII) or VKA (low FII, FVII, FIX, FX), DOACs, or testing of EDTA plasma (low FV, FVIII) or serum (low FII, FV, FVIII, FIX, FX)]

# Postanalitik Kalite – Notlar ve Yorumlar

Test	Test result	Sample comments
Factor inhibitor	Positive result	[Consider possibility of LA, DOACs, or EDTA or heparin contamination]
von Willebrand factor	Pattern suggestive of type 2 VWD (i.e., functional discordance between VWF:Ag and VWF:CB and/or VWF:RC <sub>0</sub> or loss of high molecular weight VWF multimers)	Results suggestive of type 2 [e.g., 2A or 2B 2M or pseudo-/platelet-type (depending on results)] von Willebrand disease. Further studies may be indicated; please contact laboratory for advice, or else send repeat sample for retesting and confirmation. Please note the following can all provide a false type 2 VWD test pattern: testing of filtered plasma or serum sample or testing of plasma after the refrigeration or storage of whole blood sample at low temperature
von Willebrand factor	Pattern suggestive of functional discordance between VWF:Ag and FVIII:C	Results suggestive of [hemophilia A, hemophilia A carrier, acquired deficiency, or type 2N von Willebrand disease (depending on test pattern obtained)]. Further studies may be indicated [also consider the possibility that serum was tested]
PFA-100	Prolonged closure time (CT) result with C/Epi, normal with C/ADP	Prolonged closure time (CT) result with C/Epi, normal with C/ADP. Results consistent with any of the following: low platelet count, low hematocrit, recent antiplatelet medication (e.g., aspirin), mild platelet dysfunction, and/or mild von Willebrand disease. Suggest medication review and full blood count. Other studies may be indicated; please discuss with laboratory if required. [Note: comment can be modified as appropriate depending on other test results, e.g., if platelet count and hematocrit are available]
PFA-100	Prolonged closure time (CT) result with both C/Epi and C/ADP	Prolonged closure time (CT) result with both C/Epi and C/ADP. Results consistent with any of the following: very low platelet count, very low hematocrit, recent antiplatelet medication (e.g., aspirin), moderate to severe platelet dysfunction, and/or moderate to severe von Willebrand disease. Suggest medication review and full blood count. Other studies may be indicated; please discuss with laboratory if required. [Note: comment can be modified as appropriate depending on other test results; e.g., if platelet count and hematocrit are available]
PFA-100	Normal closure time (CT) result with both C/Epi and C/ADP	Normal closure time (CT) result with both C/Epi and C/ADP. This result will not always discount a primary hemostasis disorder. If patient being investigated for mucocutaneous bleeding, please discuss with laboratory, as further testing may be required

# Postanalitik Kalite – Notlar ve Yorumlar

LMWH	Anti-Xa level	Monitoring of LMWH is rarely required, except in renal failure, extreme of body weight, or situations in which there is an increased risk of bleeding. Heparin assay performed using an anti-Xa procedure using a commercial calibrant [name drug] for the standard curve. Test results for different LMWH drugs may give slight differences in activity levels. Test results for patients on anticoagulants other than LMWH drugs will not be meaningful. Current therapeutic interval used for patients of [name institution]: 0.5–1.2 U/ml at 3–5 h after last dose
Dabigatran	Dilute TT	Dabigatran does not require routine monitoring, and this test is not to be used for dosage adjustments. Dabigatran assay performed as an antithrombin procedure and a commercial reference plasma for the standard curve. Test results for patients on anticoagulants other than dabigatran will not be meaningful. There is no widely accepted or validated therapeutic interval for dabigatran, and levels vary widely from patient to patient and also depend on time of last dosage. Anticipated range of level for patients receiving dabigatran would be approximately 40–450 ng/ml
Rivaroxaban/ apixaban	Anti-Xa level	Rivaroxaban[/apixaban] does not require routine monitoring, and this test is not to be used for dosage adjustments. Rivaroxaban[/apixaban] assay performed as an anti-Xa procedure using a commercial reference plasma for the standard curve. Test results for patients on anticoagulants other than rivaroxaban[/apixaban] will not be meaningful. There is no widely accepted or validated therapeutic interval for rivaroxaban[/apixaban]. Levels of rivaroxaban[/apixaban] vary widely from patient to patient and also depend on time of last dosage. Anticipated range of level for patients receiving rivaroxaban[/apixaban] would be approximately 40–400 ng/ml [/40–250 ng/ml]
All tests performed by latex immunoassay	Elevated	[Might need comment regarding possibility of interference from rheumatoid factor]
Any test	Additional add-on comment to any of the above comments	Please discuss with/contact the laboratory/hematologist for further advice

# Koagülasyon Testlerinde Genel Sorunlar

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Poor knowledge of hemostasis in health and disease

Heterogeneity of available guidelines for diagnosis and therapeutic management

Inaccurate definition of reference ranges

Identification and communication of critical values

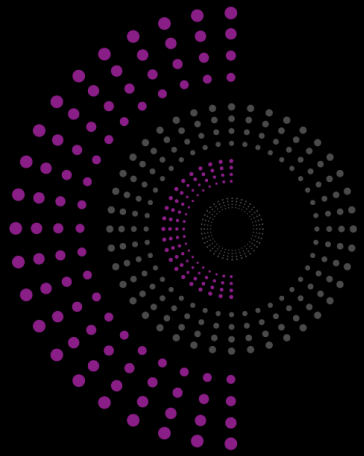
Harmonization of preanalytical, analytical and postanalytical procedures

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# Kalite için gereken yol göstericiler

- CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute)
- BSH (British Society of Hematology)
- ISLH (International Society of Laboratory Hematology)
- ICSH (International Council on Standardization in Hematology)

# Sürekli eğitim



# ISLH

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
LABORATORY HEMATOLOGY

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## Practical-Haemostasis.com

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LABORATORY HAEMOSTASIS

SCREENING TESTS	FACTOR ASSAYS	PLATELET FUNCTION TESTING	THROMBOPHILIA TESTING	FIBRINOLYTIC ASSAYS	GENETIC TESTS	MISCELLANEOUS TESTS	USEFUL INFORMATION	DATA INTERPRETATION
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### Anti-Xa Assays

#### Introduction

The plasma Anti-Xa assay is a test that is used for monitoring patients on LMWHs or UFH. UFH is commonly monitored by means of the APTT but in some cases [e.g. in patients with a high FVIII level] - the APTT can underestimate the degree of anticoagulation induced by the UFH and the measurement of a plasma anti-Xa level may provide a more accurate assessment of anticoagulation.

#### COMMENTS

1. A standard curve should be used for UFH and the standard specific LMWH should not be used for preparation of a calibration curve should be used for UFH as used for patients.
2. Unfractionated heparin is reported in international units (IU).

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