Fact Sheet

Investigation of Bleeding Disorders

The Haematology Department of ACT Pathology provides a range of tests for the investigation of acquired and inherited bleeding disorders including factor assays, platelet aggregometry and studies for the diagnosis of von Willebrand disorder.

Bleeding disorders are often detected with a Full Coagulation Profile (FCP) as a prolonged PT and or APTT time. A mixing test, initiated by the laboratory, which does correct the PT and or APTT indicates the possible presence of a factor deficiency. Other causes of prolonged PT and or APTT, such as liver disease, need to be taken into account.

Tests to Order for a Bleeding Disorder

Screening

FCP (Full Coagulation Profile)
Container Type: 1 x 4ml Citrate (Blue Topped) filled to the line.
Availability: 24hours a day.
Followed by an appropriate Factor study if indicated or requested.

Coagulation Factor Assays

Container Type: 1 x 4ml Citrate (Blue Topped) filled to the line.
Availability: Test frequency – weekly or as required.
Contact the Coagulation laboratory – Phone 512 42834.

The most common inherited coagulation factor deficiency is factor VIII (Haemophilia A) followed by deficiencies of factors IX, XI and XII (which is not associated with an increased bleeding risk). ACT Pathology provides testing for the diagnosis of all coagulation factor deficiencies, screening for the development of factor inhibitors, and monitoring and management of replacement therapy.

Studies for the Diagnosis of von Willebrand Disorder

Von Willebrand disorder is usually inherited as an autosomal condition which is thought to be the most common bleeding disorder, affecting about 1% of the population. There are many variants, with mild to severe expression depending on the degree of reduction of the von Willebrand factor, which is bound to the factor VIII molecule and contributes to platelet function.

Von Willebrand disorder is diagnosed from the factor VIII level, ristocetin cofactor activity, von Willebrand factor and collagen binding assay. The evaluation of these tests and relevant history can assist in the diagnosis and classification of von

Phone 02 5124 2932 Fax 02 5124 2815
actpathology@act.gov.au
www.health.act.gov.au/services/act-pathology
Gilmore Crescent Garran ACT 2605 PO Box 11 Woden ACT 2606

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Willebrand disorder.
Availability: Test frequency- weekly or as required.

Other Investigative Tests

Platelet aggregometry and Platelet Function Analyser (PFA) as a screen for von Willebrand's disorder and platelet dysfunction are available after consultation with one of the specialist Haematologists. These tests are booked in by calling the coagulation laboratory on 512 42834.

For further information please contact:

Dr Michael Pidcock	Director, Laboratory Haematology	512 43788
Dr Philip Crispin	Specialist Haematologist	512 43964
Dr Dipti Talaulikar	Specialist Haematologist	512 42487

Dr James D'Rozario	Specialist Haematologist	Clinical Haematology 512 48514
Dr Maya Latimer	Specialist Haematologist	
Dr Edwin Lee	Specialist Haematologist	
Dr Nalini Pati	Specialist Haematologist	
Dr Emma Palfreyman	Specialist Haematologist	
Dr Sam Bennett	Specialist Haematologist	
Dr Philip Choi	Specialist Haematologist	

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