

Acquired inhibitors to factors V and X after exposure to topical thrombin: interference with monitoring of low molecular weight heparin and warfarin.

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Abstract:

Repeated surgical exposure to topical bovine thrombin is known to be associated with the development of antibodies to bovine and human thrombin and factor V. This is demonstrated by abnormalities of in vitro coagulation assays and, rarely, postoperative bleeding. We describe a 4-year-old child in whom an antibody to bovine factor X developed after cardiac surgery; this antibody interfered with the heparin anti-Xa assay, thereby complicating the monitoring of heparin therapy.