

LOCATING ANTICOAGULANT PROTOCOLS AND OTHER TOP TIPS FOR COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Written by Julia Anderson, for the Critical Care Teams in NHS Lothian, 18 April 2020

- The full NHS Lothian Antithrombotic Guide can be found on the front page of the intranet
 - Go to the home page of the intranet
 - Select homepage link
 - You will see the Antithrombotic Guide (Adult) Version 4.1 as well as the Heparin Infusion Chart there – just click!
- Other protocols and guidance are located on the haematology intranet set – go to the intranet home page, then Directory to Haematology, then Policy Documents, and there are the protocols listed alphabetically – you will find Warfarin reversal, Beriplex, Argatroban guidance all located here

Any queries please contact the on-call RIE haematology team for advice (pager 5817 during working hours, or via switchboard out of hours for SpR on call, and Consultant on call available via switchboard) and we can talk you through the guidance

Common queries:

Page 2: LMWH and heparin assays – how to arrange, order and sampling instructions

Page 3: Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia pathway and Argatroban policies

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Guidance on LMWH-Heparin (anti-factor Xa) monitoring for *prophylactic* doses of LMWH

Usually not needed, but in COVID-19 positive patients it may be necessary, and might be required if there is renal impairment (Cr Cl <30 ml/min)

Order as “LMW Heparin assay” on TRAK (search for “heparin” and you will get 5 choices! – choose “LMW Heparin assay”; automated test done at RIE site, available 24 hours a day, please inform haematology laboratory staff if request is urgent; courier to RIE lab if at other sites

Use a green-top citrated tube; ensure sample is filled to the “level” marked on the side of the tube as the lab cannot assay the sample if underfilled.

Level must be checked 3-4 hours post administration of the dose of LMWH

Target “peak” range is 0.1-0.4 units/ml

Check a one-off level and thereafter as required

For patients requiring a invasive procedure/intervention/surgery withhold SC dalteparin the evening before the procedure, and take a “trough” LMWH-heparin level to ensure there is no accumulation (level should be < 0.1)

Guidance on LMWH-Heparin (anti-factor Xa) monitoring for *therapeutic* doses of LMWH

Order as “LMWH-Heparin level” on TRAK (as above)

Level must be checked 3-4 hours post administration of the dose of LMWH

Check a one-off level and thereafter as required

Target “peak” range is 0.5-1.0 units/ml

Guidance on Unfractionated Heparin (UFH) anti-factor Xa monitoring for therapeutic anticoagulation

Order as “UFH-Heparin level” on TRAK (search for “heparin” and you will get 5 choices! – choose “Unfractionated heparin assay – all sites” level; automated test done at RIE site, available 24 hours a day, please inform haematology laboratory staff if request is urgent; courier to RIE lab if at other sites

Use a green-top citrated tube; ensure sample is filled to the “level” marked on the side of the tube as the lab cannot assay the sample if underfilled.

Level is taken whilst the patient is on intravenous heparin – no need to stop the infusion
Check a one-off level and thereafter as required

Target level is 0.3-0.8 units/ml

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Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia – the following documents may be helpful and are found on the haematology intranet site: go to the intranet home page, then Directory to Haematology, then Policy Documents:

Argatroban infusion chart

Argatroban Management Guideline

Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia Clinical Guideline

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