

## Heparin

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### Thrombosis without thrombocytopenia: case report

A 55-year-old man developed thrombosis without thrombocytopenia during anticoagulation with heparin for multivessel coronary artery disease.

The man, who had a history of coronary artery disease, diabetes mellitus, hypertension and hyperlipidaemia, presented with an acute coronary artery syndrome and was placed on a heparin drip [*dosage not stated*]. The next day he underwent a 2-vessel off-pump coronary bypass, during which he received 15 000 units of unfractionated heparin intravenously. Postoperatively, no heparin was administered. On postoperative day 2, his platelet count decreased (from 213 K/ $\mu$ L to 168 K/ $\mu$ L); a heparin-induced antibody test conducted the same day was negative. A chest CT scan, conducted on postoperative day 12 (for evaluation of a fever, a mild increase in HR and a decrease in his oxygen saturation to 93%) revealed a saddle pulmonary embolus. He had no other symptoms. A lower extremity ultrasound showed a thrombus in his left popliteal vein.

The man received anticoagulation with IV argatroban, pending results of heparin-induced antibody and heparin-induced platelet aggregation tests, both of which later returned positive results. His IV argatroban was transitioned to oral warfarin and he was discharged on postoperative day 28. Just prior to discharge, a follow-up CT scan showed the pulmonary embolus had significantly diminished. On follow-up at 3 months, he was well.

Tibayan FA, et al. Heparin-induced thrombosis without thrombocytopenia. *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* 139: e6-e7, No. 2, 1 Feb 2010. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2008.07.006> - USA 803007938