



D-dimer: Preanalytical, analytical, postanalytical variables, and clinical applications

Submitted by Beatrice Guillaumat on Wed, 02/27/2019 - 09:54

Titre D-dimer: Preanalytical, analytical, postanalytical variables, and clinical applications

Type de publication Article de revue

Auteur Favresse, Julien [1], Lippi, Giuseppe [2], Roy, Pierre-Marie [3], Chatelain, Bernard [4], Jacqmin, Hugues [5], Ten Cate, Hugo [6], Mullier, François [7]

Editeur Taylor & Francis

Type Article scientifique dans une revue à comité de lecture

Année 2018

Langue Anglais

Date Décembre 2018

Numéro 8

Pagination 548-577

Volume 55

Titre de la revue Critical reviews in clinical laboratory sciences

ISSN 1549-781X

Mots-clés Analytical [8], D-dimer [9], postanalytical [10], preanalytical [11], venous thromboembolism [12]

Résumé en anglais D-dimer is a soluble fibrin degradation product deriving from the plasmin-mediated degradation of cross-linked fibrin. D-dimer can hence be considered a biomarker of activation of coagulation and fibrinolysis, and it is routinely used for ruling out venous thromboembolism (VTE). D-dimer is increasingly used to assess the risk of VTE recurrence and to help define the optimal duration of anticoagulation treatment in patients with VTE, for diagnosing disseminated intravascular coagulation, and for screening medical patients at increased risk of VTE. This review is aimed at (1) revising the definition of D-dimer; (2) discussing preanalytical variables affecting the measurement of D-dimer; (3) reviewing and comparing assay performance and some postanalytical variables (e.g. different units and age-adjusted cutoffs); and (4) discussing the use of D-dimer measurement across different clinical settings.

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DOI 10.1080/10408363.2018.1529734 [14]

Lien vers le document <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10408363.2018.1529734> [15]

Titre abrégé Crit Rev Clin Lab Sci

Identifiant (ID) PubMed 30694079 [16]

Liens

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