Coagulation revisited : Special focus on Prothrombotic states and anticoagulation

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Abstract

In the daily practice of anaesthesia, it sometimes happens that a case arises that requires investigation. This is a review of such a case.

A 35 year old female presented with a surgical history of bilateral above knee amputations. A subsequent diagnosis of antithrombin lll and protein C deficiency was made. As a consequence of inadequate anticoagulation the patient then presented for amputation of an arm.

In recent years, our understanding of the coagulation cascade and its mechanisms has evolved significantly from a classic separation of ''intrinsic'' and ''extrinsic'' pathway to one of initiation, amplification, propagation and stabilisation of the clot . We now have greater insight than ever before on the degradation of clot and how the different mediators like thrombin , antithrombin and protein C and S act on the cascade.

This review aims to provide an overview of the ''new'' coagulation pathway , consequences of abnormalities in the pathway and where the ''new'' anticoagulants act on the pathway so that we have an improved understanding for improved patient care.

References

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