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Internal quality control of coagulation tests

Myung-Hyun Nam

Department of Laboratory Medicine, College of Medicine, Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Quality control process of the coagulation tests might be somewhat different from the other routine chemistry and hematology tests throughout preanalytical, analytical, and postanalytical stages. The results of the coagulation tests can be affected by a number of preexamination variables, such as method of blood collection, collection containers, type and concentration of anticoagulant, specimen and sample storage conditions. The examination variables, such as sample incubation time and temperature, contact activation time, type of reagents, and the method of end-point detection are also important elements of quality control process. Moreover, some special considerations should be given to the reports of coagulation tests, such as INR (international normalized ratio) calculation of prothrombin time report, establishment of heparin therapeutic range of activated partial thromboplastin time report, and coagulation test recommendations to monitor anticoagulant therapy. Current topic suggests the proper utilization process of quality control of the coagulation tests based on the CLSI guidelines.