



The therapeutic PTT range for unfractionated heparin therapy is changing from 40-60 seconds to a new therapeutic PTT range of 60-100 seconds.

Effective Date: December 10, 2008

New methodology: New reference method correlating the PTT to anti-Xa testing.

New therapeutic PTT range: 60 - 100 seconds

The new range is based on the recommended method for establishing the PTT range for heparin therapy. This recommended method is correlated with the coagulation inhibitor factor Xa range of 0.3 to 0.7 units/mL.

Caveats: A PTT baseline should be obtained prior to therapy to evaluate the rare possibility of existing coagulation abnormalities. In this possible circumstance and when unusually high doses of heparin are needed to obtain the desired therapeutic range, direct measurement of factor Xa should be used to monitor heparin therapy. And, baseline and daily platelet counts should be performed to evaluate the possibility of heparin induced thrombocytopenia.

The PTT range of 60 to 100 seconds is not appropriate for monitoring fractionated heparin (e.g. low molecular weight heparin) therapy.

Discontinued methodology: PTT correlation with heparin spiked pooled plasma

Discontinued therapeutic PTT range: 40 - 60 seconds.

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References available on request.

November 25, 2008