

Cascade

Issue Number: 2

April 2008

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'Training and Development' - Further information regarding our 2 day education course titled "Current Practice in Thrombosis"

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Centre and Laboratory Contact Details

Editorial Team Contacts

Platelet Laboratory

The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis has recently established a specialist platelet diagnostic laboratory. Its remit is to diagnose primary haemostatic disorders.

The Centre can offer a full range of platelet diagnostic testing, from simple screening through to complex membrane and content analysis. The state of the art laboratory has been equipped with:

- platelet content analysis
- modern platelet aggregometer instruments to measure platelet release products during aggregation
- flow cytometric methods for glycoprotein analysis
- screening assays such as the PFA-100 and the Diamed Impact-R (cone and platelet) analyser.



The development of the specialist platelet laboratory will extend our diagnostic capacity in these areas.

Platelets play an important part in health and disease. Discovered by Bizzozero in 1882, they have gone from relatively humble beginnings to becoming central players. Platelets orchestrate the genesis of a clot, releasing chemotactic agents, aggregating products and providing bulk. It is no surprise then that when these processes go awry, problems develop.

In 1971 Professor Sire John Vane elucidated the mechanism by which aspirin down-regulates platelets via the prostaglandin pathway. Prophylactic aspirin has now been recommended in a number of prothrombotic states. In some cases patients on aspirin have had recurrent thrombotic events, this has

become known as 'aspirin resistance'. Currently the standard for measuring aspirin resistance is platelet aggregation; the laboratory can provide this service.

Screening assays can be done on a 3.5mL citrate sample; however they must reach the laboratory within two hours of venepuncture. All other platelet samples need to be either taken into specialist bottles or performed immediately after venepuncture.

To discuss your requirements or to make appointments for your patients for any of our specialist platelet diagnostic services, please contact a member of our clinical team on the contacts listed at the conclusion of this newsletter.

Alternatively, the editorial team will be more than pleased to pass on your requests or put you in contact with the right people in the Centre.

If you have particular areas of platelet pathology that you feel could be clinically beneficial to investigate please contact our laboratory platelet specialist, Mr David Gurney on 020 718 82797 or the Principal Biomedical Scientist for the Platelet Laboratory, Dr Gary Moore on 020 7188 2797 to discuss.

Shaping the service we provide

The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis prides itself on its continuing good relationship with the users of our service.

One of our main objectives, as a department, is to provide a high quality service, which is built upon the needs and requirements of our users and customers.

We need the input of our users to shape the service we provide both now and for the future. Our department management team works hard to ensure that we provide this quality service, and a major component of this is meeting the needs and requirements of users.

Listening to our users is essential to provide a complete service. Our department is always open to new ideas, whether for service delivery or increased testing array to meet the continuing need for more and more sophisticated diagnostic techniques.

We pride ourselves as a Reference Centre for diagnostic services and continue to develop new techniques and methods which can be utilised to improve patient lives and allow greater testing capability for conditions and disease which have only recently become apparent.

Our department plays a key role in the not only the provision of diagnostic services, but to the education of clinicians and other medical professionals in the various techniques and methods that can be used for greater coagulation diagnostic capability. This education is available to any who require it and is an essential part of the user/service provider relationship. It is not only what we can gain from you, but what our expertise and scientific knowledge can be used to investigate patient conditions and provide control and direction to those investigations.

Our department would be more than happy for any user to contact us in regards to testing or analysis which could be beneficial to the patient. We would greatly appreciate any feedback from users as to our current testing repertoire and what more could be added to or changed in the investigations we perform which will benefit both the service and the advanced knowledge of the clinician or medical professional using our service.

If there are any new techniques or methods which you would like to find out more information about, or alternatively would like to see published in this

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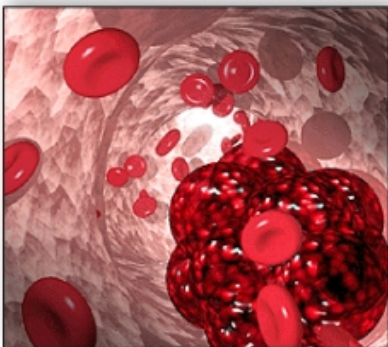
newsletter for the education of the wider user community, then please contact one of the members of our editorial team. They can consult with one of our highly specialist scientific staff to discuss your query and provide any information they can to increase the knowledge and understanding of users of the service.

This discussion can include changes to our service to better provide for our users; however this is only achieved when we have user feedback and a sharing of knowledge. We are only able to shape the service to provide best for users if we can gather enough information that that is what users want.

If you have any specific queries or need any scientific guidance over the testing we provide, the reason we provide it and its place in the diagnostic repertoire of the department, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss.

The improvement of the service we provide will be the ultimate result, which leads to better care of the patient and a better working relationship between the user and service provider.

Training and Development



The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis will be holding a 2 day course entitled "Current Practice in Thrombosis"

The lecture programme will be presented by leading experts from the Centre and external speakers from around the United Kingdom.

The course is aimed at specialist registrars, medical trainees, and biomedical scientific staff, including both

clinical and scientific trainees and registered staff. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points will be awarded for attendance through the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) and the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS).

For further information, including registration form and lecture programme schedule please visit our website (www.c4ht.com) or contact Jackie Smith (jackie.smith@gstt.nhs.uk) or call +44 (0) 20 7188 2781

Laboratory contact details

If you have any queries regarding testing in the laboratories of the Centre, any in depth information not covered in this edition, or would like to arrange testing of your patient samples please do not hesitate to contact one of our dedicated team members.

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+44 (0) 20 7188 2798

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+44 (0) 20 7188 6815

2008 User Reference Guide

The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis have produced a User Reference Guide for services provided by the department. Our 2008 User Reference Guide will be distributed to users in the next month, and will replace the 2006/2007 version that is currently used for our department information.

This guide contains:

- Contact Information for both Clinical and Laboratory staff
- Testing Repertoire
- Reference Ranges for current testing Repertoire
- Introduction to the Centre Management Team
- Useful information about the service provided by our:
 - Diagnostic Laboratory
 - Nutristasis Unit
 - Molecular Genetics Laboratory
 - Clinical Trials Service
 - Blood Products Service
 - Centre Clinics
 - Vitamin K EQA Scheme (KEQAS)

For your copy, please contact our editorial team either by phone or email contact as listed at the conclusion of this newsletter.

Contact Us

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End Point

A young woman went to her doctor complaining of pain.

"Where are you hurting?" asked the doctor.

"You have to help me, I hurt all over", said the woman.

"What do you mean, all over?" asked the doctor, "be a little more specific."

The woman touched her right knee with her index finger and yelled, "Ow, that hurts." Then she touched her left cheek and again yelled, "Ouch! That hurts, too." Then she touched her right earlobe, "Ow, even THAT hurts", she cried.

The doctor checked her thoughtfully for a moment and told her his diagnosis, "You have a broken finger."

Editorial contact

If you have any comments about **Cascade** or have any suggestion about relevant areas of interest you would like to see covered please contact the editorial team:

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