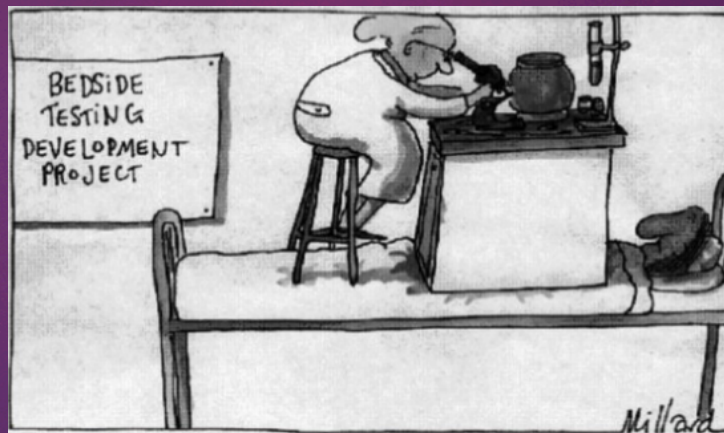


# Can we bring the lab to the OR?

“The heparin monitoring dilemma”

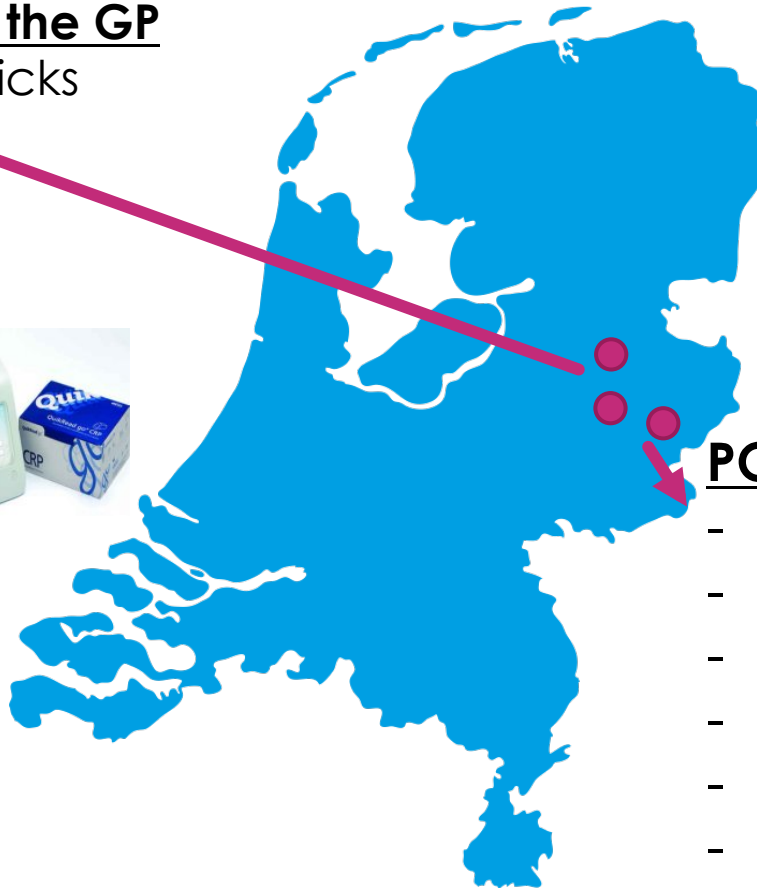


DR. E. KEMNA, LABORATORY SPECIALIST CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND HEMATOLOGY,  
MEDLON, ENSCHEDE, THE NETHERLANDS

# Where...?

## POC devices at the GP

- urinary dip sticks
- CRP
- HBA1c
- Glucose
- D-dimer, etc

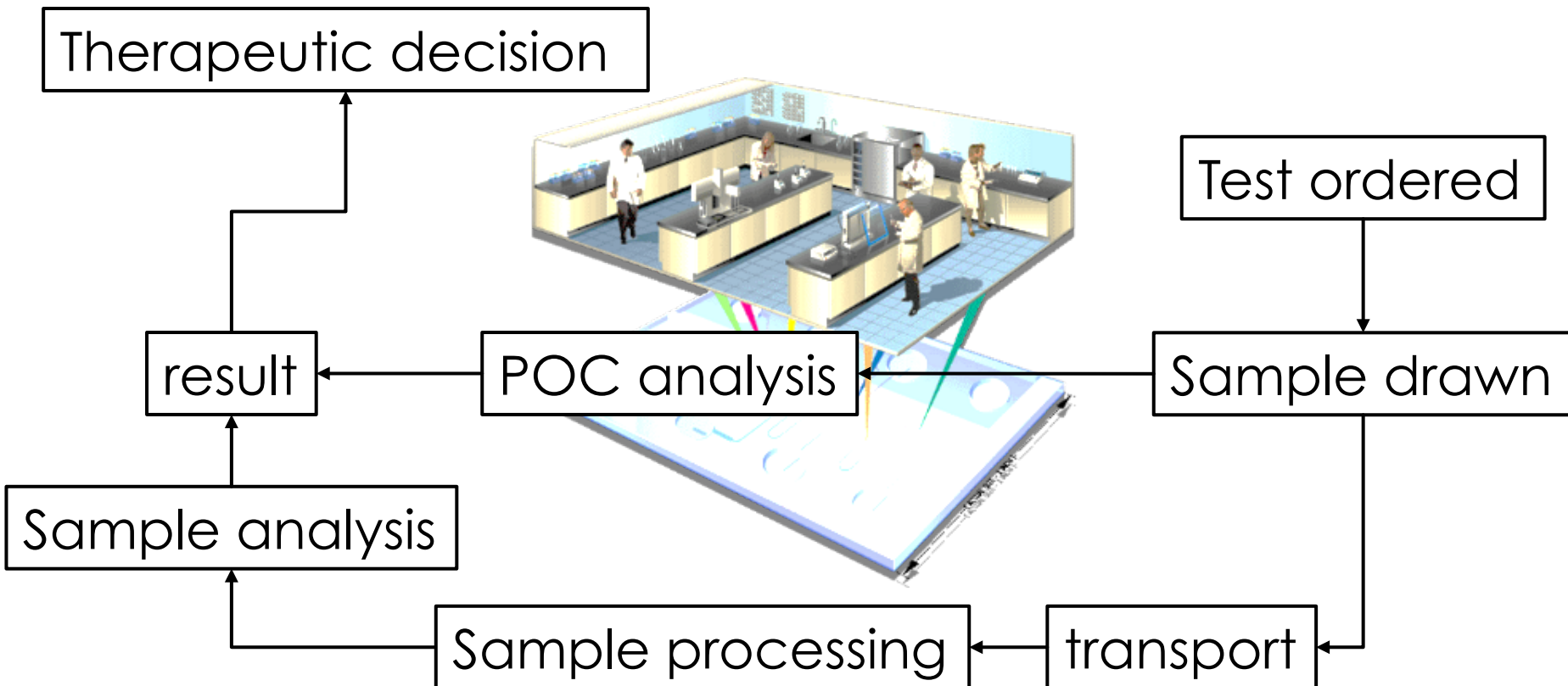


## POC devices at the hospital





- urinary dip sticks
- Blood gass, electrolytes
- Viscoelastic testing
- HBA1c
- Glucose
- D-dimer
- PT(INR) etc



# What has the lab to offer?



# What has the lab to offer?

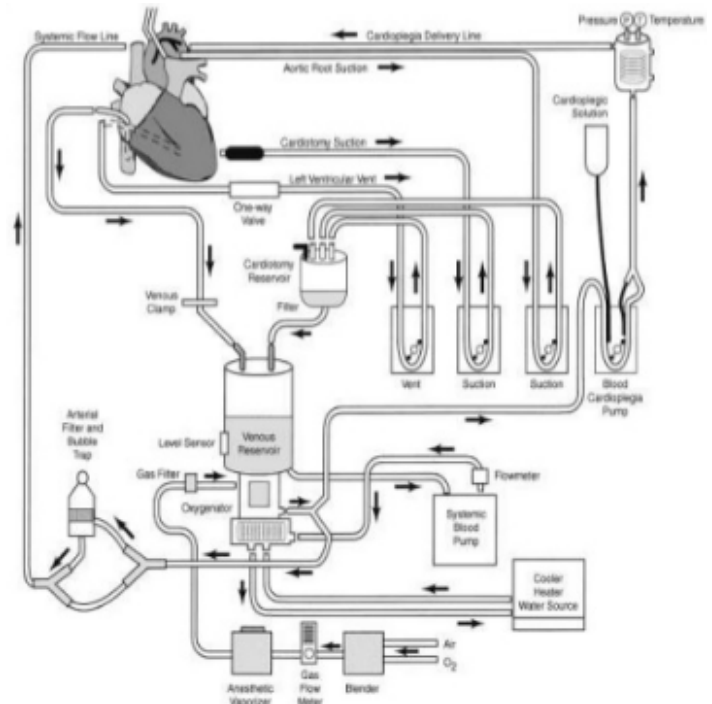
Vital function	Central lab	POCT
Acid base	pH pCO <sub>2</sub> bicarbonate	
Energy and perfusion	Glucose Hemoglobin pO <sub>2</sub> Saturation Lactate	
Conduction	Potassium Sodium Calcium Magnesium	
Osmolality	Measured osmol	
Haemostasis	Ht, PT/APTT ACT PT # and function D-dimer Viscoelastic testing etc	

# (anti)coagulation monitoring in the OR

“The heparin monitoring dilemma”



VS



# Cardiac Operation - diagnostics

Operations follow the same pattern:

- ▶ pre – CPB
  - ▶ Baseline coagulation profile, ABG before CPB,
- ▶ During CPB
  - ▶ ABG and ACT every 20 – 30 min, Assess coagulopathy
- ▶ post – CPB
  - ▶ ABG after weaning from CPB, ACT after protamine, Coagulation assessment

# What would you do?

Patiënt A. Preparing for CPB

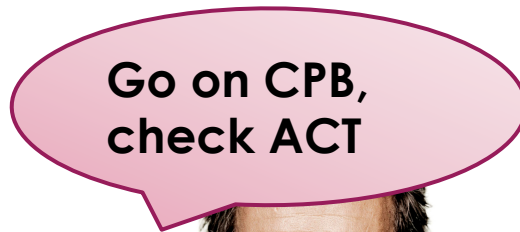
Baseline ACT value -> 124 s

Start heparin infusion of 400 U/kg

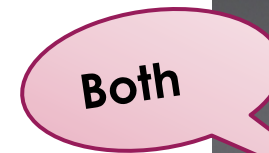
First ACT result is 460 s (local target to go on CPB is >440s)



**Administer  
extra heparin**



**Go on CPB,  
check ACT**



**Both**



# Heparin monitoring – Once upon a time...



**1918** Discovery of heparin.



**1930s** Perfectioning for safe clinical use.

**1939** Used in animal CPB

**1953** Used in human CPB



Still, monitoring was empirically done...

**1966** Hattersley first described ACT and it was introduced by Bull in cardiac surgery in the 70's



ACT evolved from virtually nonexistent to widespread during next 5 years.

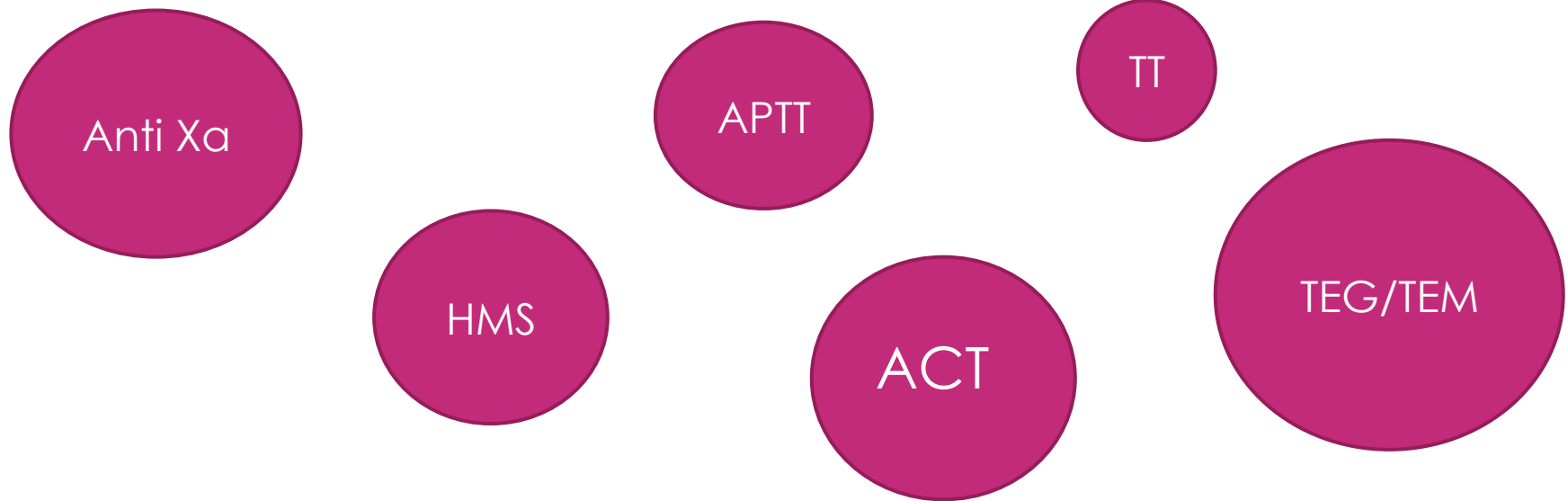


# Overview - Standard tests of coagulation

	Screening/monitoring	Confirming lab
Whole blood	<del>Hb, Ht</del> <del>Thrombocyte count</del> <del>PFA/Multiplate</del> ROTEM/TEG ACT Heparin Management System	
Plasma	<del>PT/INR</del> APTT <del>APTT 1:1</del> Thrombin time <del>HIT</del> <del>D dimer</del>	<del>Fibrinogen</del> <del>AT</del> <del>Factor analysis</del> Anti-Xa <del>Platelet aggregation</del>

# The Heparin Monitoring Dilemma

## Bring it to the OR



Which test and/or value gives best representation of anticoagulation level?

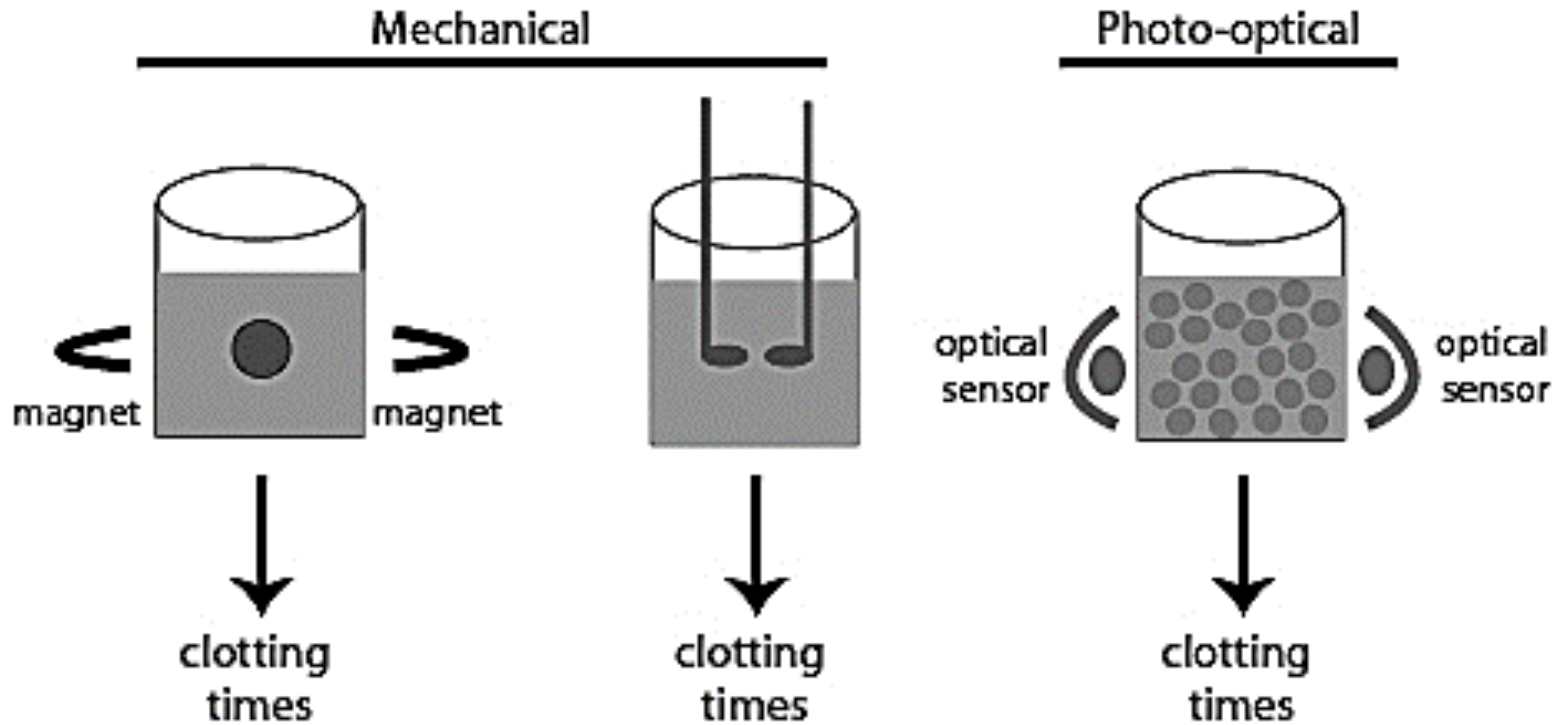
# ACT - Today



- ▶ Hemochron Response
- ▶ Hemochron *Signature* Elite
- ▶ Medtronic ACT Plus
- ▶ Medtronic HMS+
- ▶ Helena Actalyke XL / Mini
- ▶ Gem PCL
- ▶ Abbott i-STAT
- ▶ .....

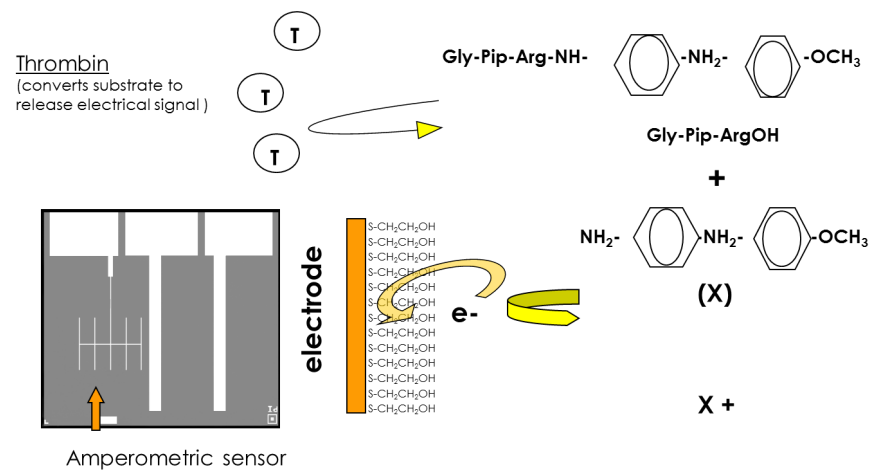


# ACT - Detection systems



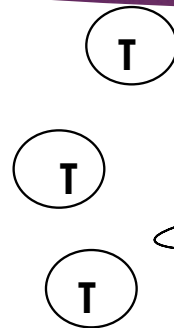
# ACT - iSTAT

- ▶ Chemical detection of thrombin formation
  - ▶ Derivation of lab chromogenic testing
- ▶ Electrochemical sensor measures specific substrate conversion
- ▶ Amperometrical detection of electroactive substance in seconds

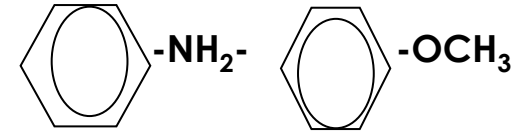


# Thrombin detection

Thrombin  
(converts substrate to  
release electrical signal )

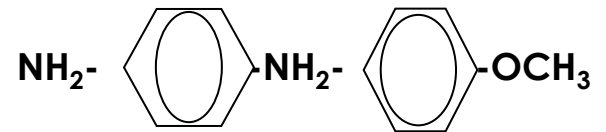


Gly-Pip-Arg-NH-



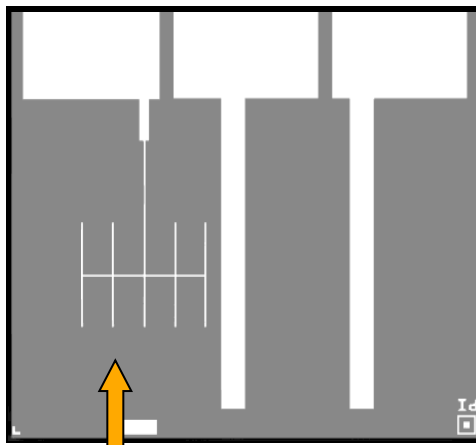
Gly-Pip-ArgOH

+



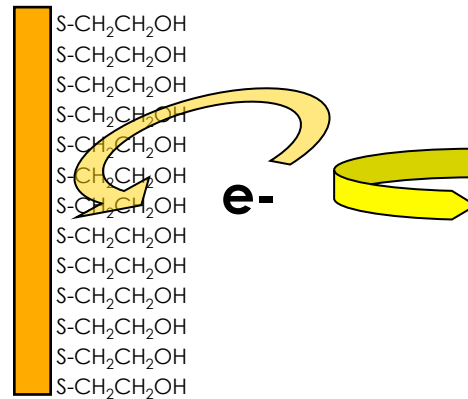
(X)

X +



Amperometric sensor

electrode





# Laboratory guidelines

**Guidelines for medical laboratories ISO 15189 (2012):** “Specifies requirements for quality and competence in medical laboratories “

**POCT ISO 22870 (2006)** ‘Point-of-Care -requirements for quality and competence’:

- Procedures for selection and use of POCT are under supervision of the laboratory.
- Adequate training programs
- POCT linking with lab information systems, certificating en re-certification





# Laboratory guidelines

## **CLSI (clinical & laboratory Standards Institute) (2004): “POC Monitoring of Anticoagulation Therapy “**

- Tests should be performed according to manufacturer's directions
- No “standard” ACT, need to establish normal and therapeutic ranges for each system and activator used.
- Select appropriate system for clinical application and heparin ranges.
- Be aware of (pre)analytical variables
  - Platelet # and function
  - Hypothermia and/or hemodilution
  - Different detection systems
  - Deviation from the manufacturer's instructions
  - Etcetera



(Formerly NCCLS)  
Providing NCCLS standards and guidelines,  
ISO/TC 212 standards, and ISO/TC 76 standards

# Recommendations



Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (2014):

- ACT most commonly used test to dictate UFH dosage. However, state potential shortcomings of ACT alone and mention complementing with more elaborate tests like aXa.

European Society of Cardiology: Guidelines on myocardial revascularization (2014):

- No role for ACT during PCI

# Recommendations



British Committee for Standards in Hematology and National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (2006)

- Recommend ACT to monitor heparin dose during cardiac surgery

Is there evidence of improved clinical outcome with ACT testing? Is there evidence for optimal target times to be used with ACT monitoring? In interventional cardiology?

**Guideline 31.** *We strongly recommend ACT monitoring of heparin anticoagulation and neutralization during interventional cardiology procedures.*

**Strength/consensus of recommendation: A**

**Level of evidence: II** (small randomized controlled trials, nonrandomized controlled trials, and case-controlled analytic studies from more than 1 center or research group)

**Guideline 32.** *We recommend the use of target times specific to ACT system used that differ if specific platelet inhibitors are used concurrently with heparin. Without intravenous platelet inhibitors, the evidence suggests that targets of >250 seconds with the Medtronic ACTII or >300 seconds with the Hemochron FTCA510 tube assay are appropriate.*

**Strength/consensus of recommendation: B**

**Level of evidence: II** (small randomized controlled trials, nonrandomized controlled trials, case-controlled analytic studies from more than 1 center or research group)

**Guideline 33.** *With the intravenous platelet inhibitors abciximab or eptifibatide, a target of 200–300 seconds is recommended; with tirofiban, a somewhat tighter range of 250–300 seconds is recommended.*

**Strength/consensus of recommendation: B**

**Level of evidence: I** (at least 1 randomized controlled trial)

# Laboratory test interpretation

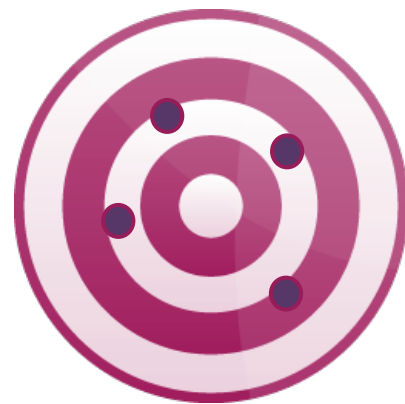
Accurate  
Precise



Not Accurate  
Precise



Accurate  
Not Precise



Not Accurate  
Not Precise



# ACT and quality assurance

- ▶ Some form of external assessment is essential to confirm accuracy and is recommended in the ISO22870.
- ▶ No agreed formal EQA program for ACT measurement at this point in time
- ▶ no 'gold standard' ACT method, which makes EQA even more important when attempting to achieve some sort of standardization.


## What would you do? Part 2

Patient A, had an ACT of 460 and is starting on CPB.


After 20 minutes the ACT is checked again.

First result is 420 sec and extra heparin is administered (10000 EH)

ACT is checked again and it is 440 sec

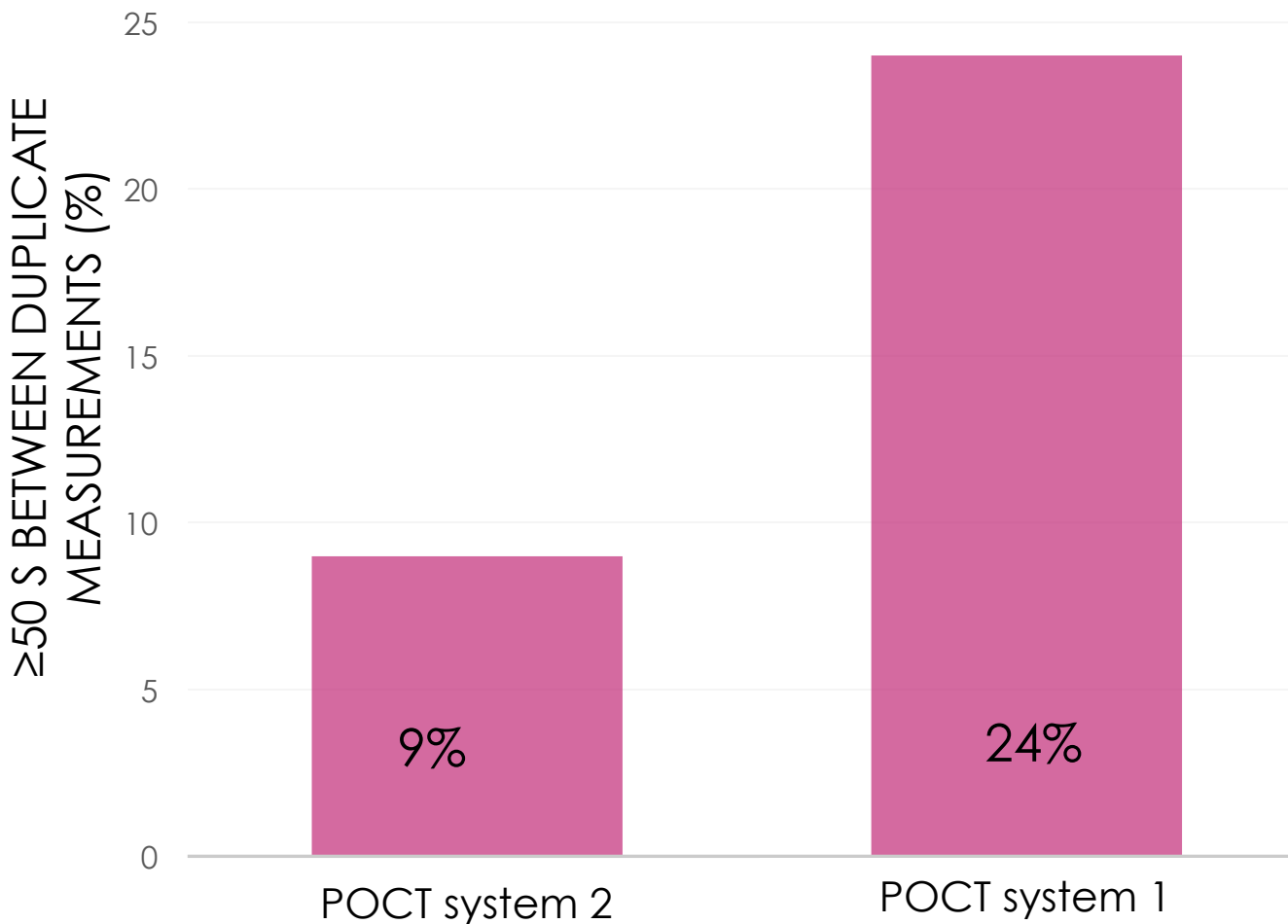


**Administer again extra heparin and check again after 20 minutes as usual**



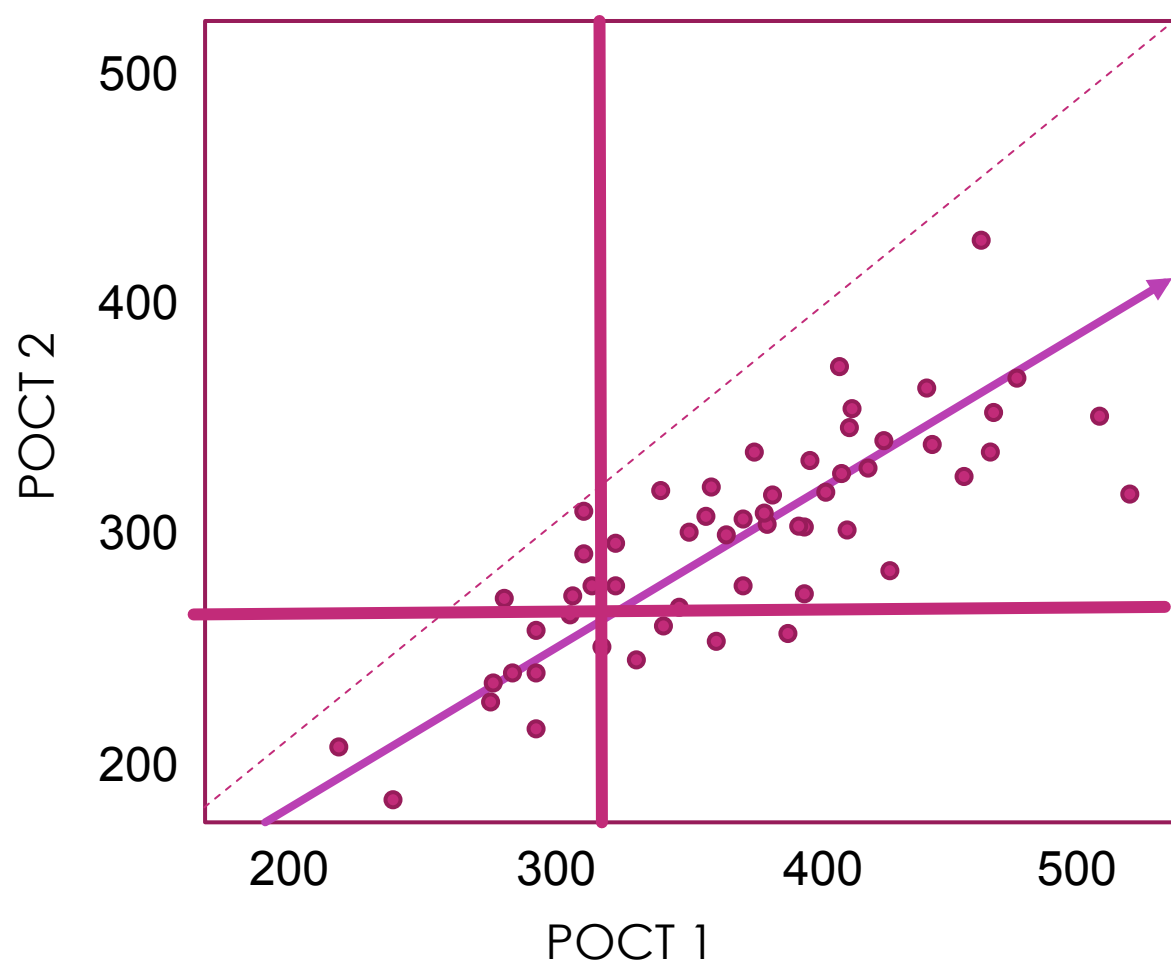
**Repeat measurement (lab is always wrong...)**

# >50 sec difference between duplicates (n=177)



# Correlation POCT 1 POCT 2

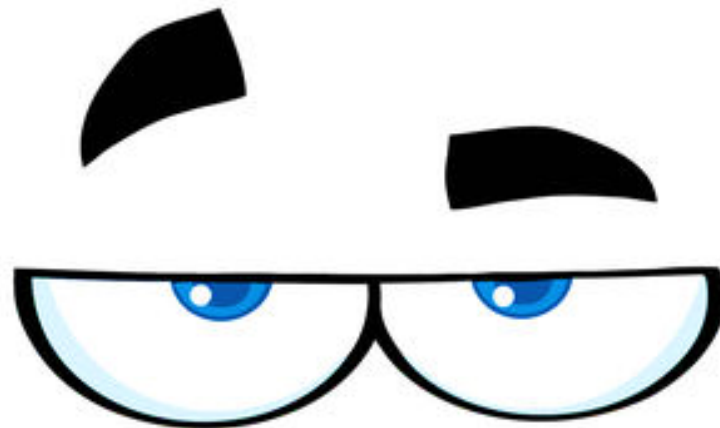
N=88, no baseline, unpublished results





# Healthy criticism when interpreting ACT result on your specific device

Although all systems correlate to a certain extent,  
they yield different results.



**Know your ACT!**

# Special cases, ask for special approach

- Lupus anticoagulans prolongs initial ACT values.
  - doubling baseline ACT
  - anti-Xa
  - Heparin management system.
- DOAC: The IIa agent interferes more than anti-Xa agents on the ACT. But stays below 300-400 range. However the effect on this range should be investigated.
- Platelet # or inhibitors:  $<30-50 * 10^6/L$  and platelet inhibitors prolongate ACT. Target range adjustment or anti Xa measurement.

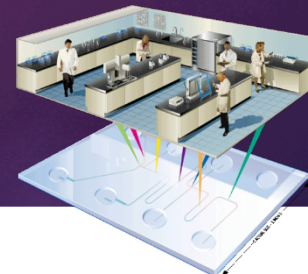
# Take home messages

Intraoperative testing is the domain of Point of Care

No golden ACT standard, no true ACT

Know your ACT system and the influencing variables

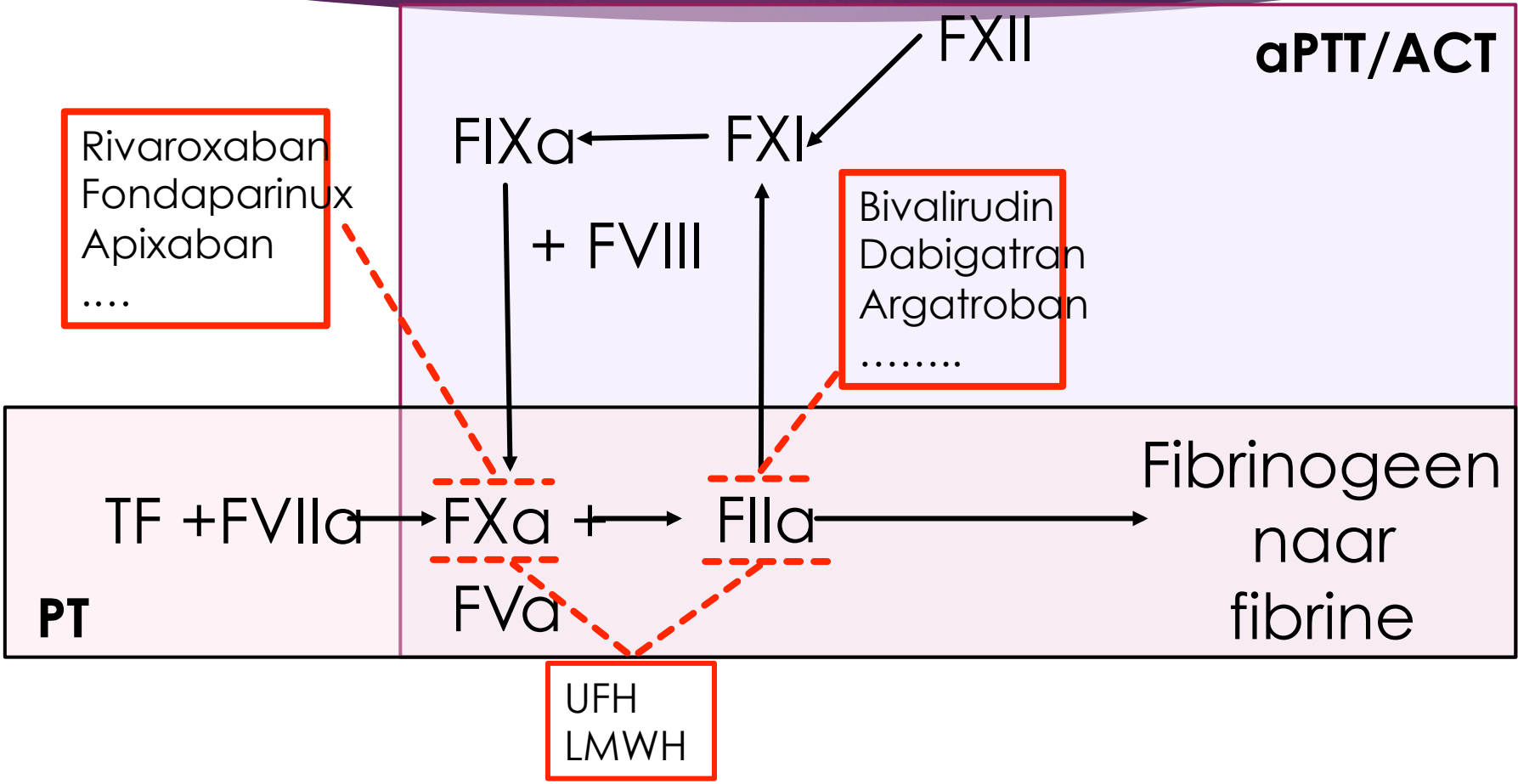
Heparin monitoring requires a multidisciplinary approach



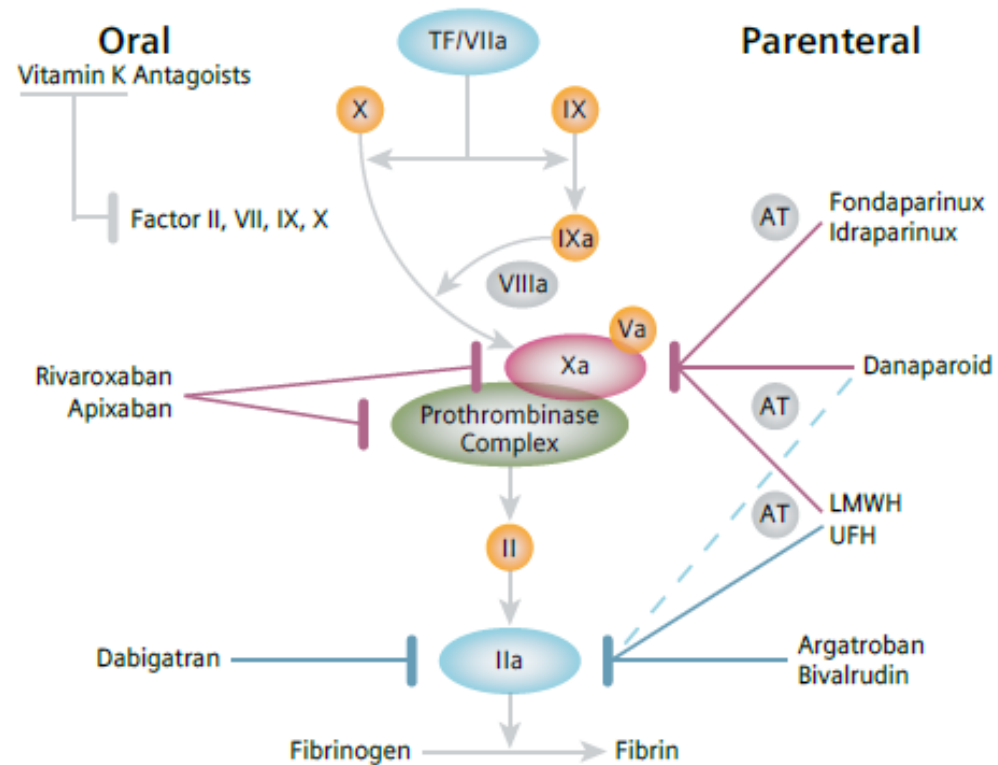
# Acknowledgements

- ▶ Dr. med. R. Hoffmann, Chefarzt, Institut für Labormedizin und Mikrobiologie, Klinikum Augsburg, Germany
- ▶ Dr Falter, Consultant Anaesthetist at Papwordt hospital, UK
- ▶ Dr. J. Krabbe, Clinical Chemist, Medlon, Enschede, Netherlands
- ▶ Dr. R. Speekenbrink, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, MST Enschede, Netherlands
- ▶ S. Majoor en R. Boudrie, Clinical Perfusionists, MST Enschede, Netherlands
- ▶ A. Oude Luttikhuis, Chief Analyst POCT Medlon, Enschede, Netherlands





# Heparin



TF – Tissue factor  
 AT – Antithrombin  
 UFH – Unfractionated heparin  
 LMWH – Low-molecular-weight heparin

# CLSI: 49-A POCT

**Table 1. Classification of Heparin Dose Regimens Used in the Prevention and Treatment of Venous and Arterial Thromboembolic Complications**

Heparin Dose	Heparin Concentration, U/mL	Clinical Use	Methods for Monitoring
Standard	0.2 - 0.5	Venous thromboembolism	APTT; Heparin Concentration
Intermediate	0.5 - 3.0	Hemodialysis ECMO/VADs Diagnostic Catheterization PCI	ACT; APTT; Heparin Concentration
High	3.0 - 8.0	Cardiac surgery (CPB)	ACT; Heparin Concentration



Junior, drink your blood before it clots"

# Effect of DOACs on ACT

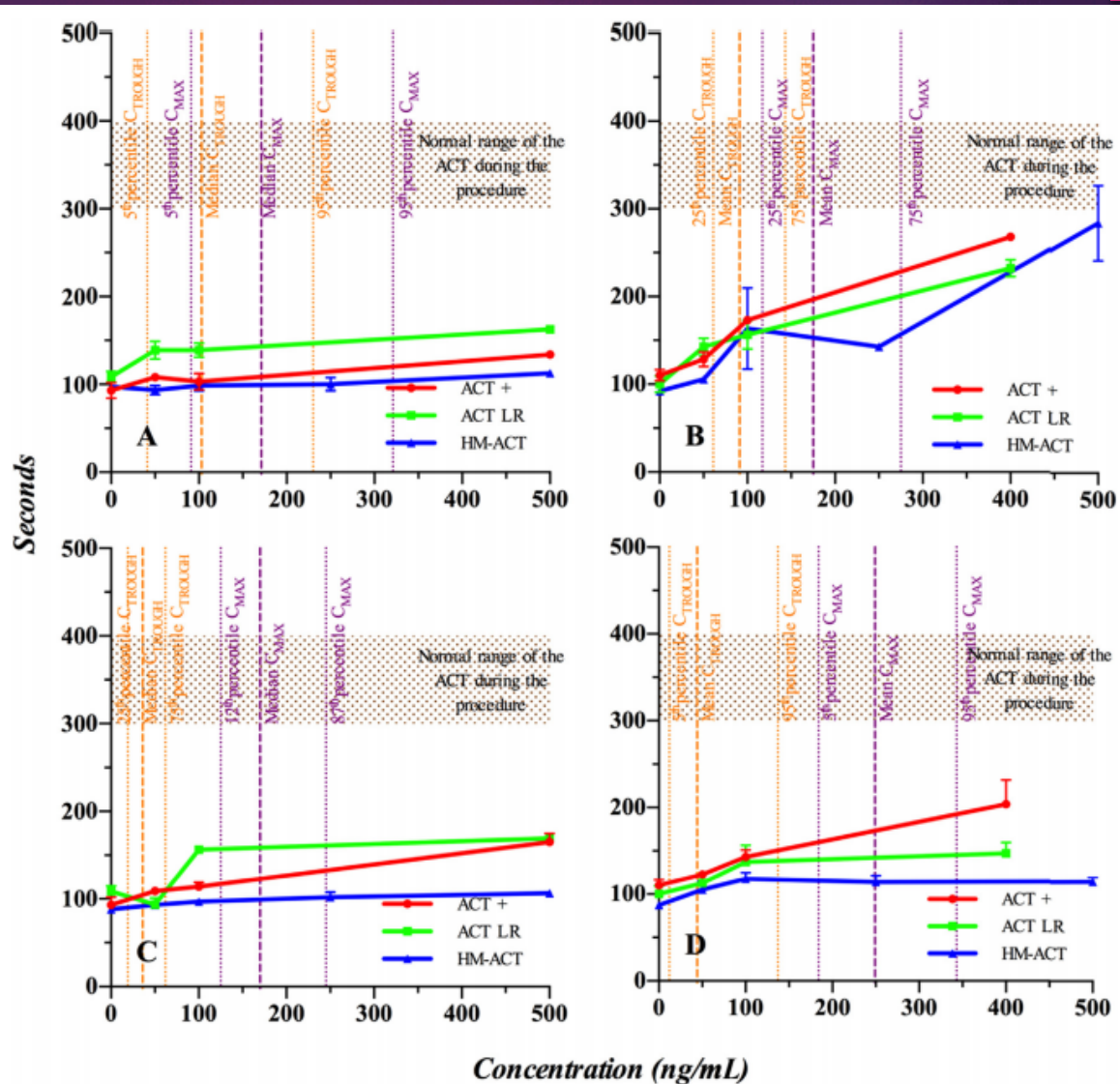
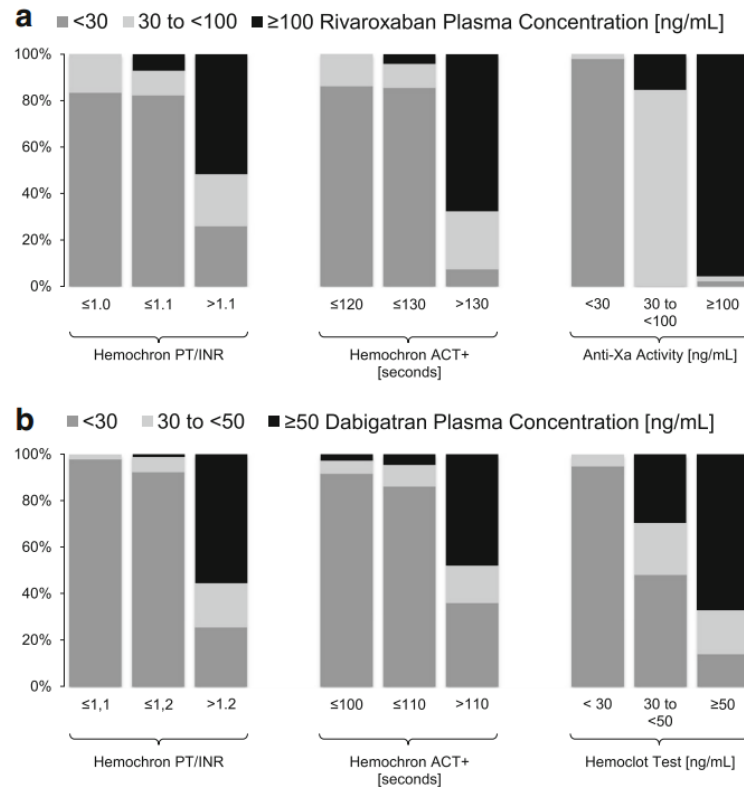


Fig 1. Impact of (A) apixaban, (B) dabigatran, (C) edoxaban, and (D) rivaroxaban on the ACT. Results are reported in seconds. Plasma concentration range at TROUGH (orange) and TMAX (purple) are represented for information.



# DOAC ACT



**Fig. 2 a** Distribution of rivaroxaban concentrations found at different Hemochron® Signature POCT results of prothrombin time/international normalized ratio (*PT/INR*) and activated clotting time plus (*ACT+*) test cards and at different anti-Xa activities ( $n = 118$  samples). **b** Distribution of dabigatran concentrations found at different Hemochron® Signature POCT results of *PT/INR* and *ACT+* test cards, and at different Hemoclot assay results ( $n = 168$  samples)

AT + Heparin



[AT\*Heparin]

[AT\*Heparin] + FXa (*excess*)



[AT-FXa- Heparin] + FXa (*residual*)

Chromogenic substrate



Peptide + pNA