

Any Lab Test Now

ACTIVATED PARTIAL THROMBOPLASTIN TIME (aPTT) TEST

DESCRIPTION

The body's ability to form blood clots is critical to the healing process when we are wounded both externally and internally. When the coagulation (clotting) process is functioning normally after body tissue or a blood vessel is wounded and bleeds, platelets which are small, sticky cell fragments attach to and begin to collect at the injury site. This begins the process of "coagulation cascade" that includes many other factors, one of which is the knitting together of fibrous tissues that forms a net over the injury site. The net and the platelets together form a stable blood clot that prevents further bleeding and allows the site to heal and the body to minimize blood loss.

If any of the coagulation factors is not functioning properly blood clots don't form or form too slowly leading to excessive bleeding both internally and externally which can lead to dangerous, life-threatening episodes. Alternatively, blood clots may form too quickly and too often, breaking free and causing stroke or heart attack.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

By measuring the amount of time the body takes to form a blood clot in a test tube, the aPTT test can determine the amount and the function of certain coagulation factors. For people who are at increased risk of blood clots that can cause stroke or heart attack, Heparin, an anti-coagulant is sometimes prescribed. While on Heparin therapy it is important to monitor both the effectiveness of the therapy and to ensure that the body is still able to properly form blood clots.

If you are experiencing unexplained bruising or bleeding, have developed a thromboembolism (clot that has broken free and is moving through the veins), have an acute condition that may cause bleeding and the clots to be used too quickly, or chronic liver disease this test will help to determine the cause allowing treatment to prevent life threatening bleeding events. This test may also be used prior to surgery to determine a patient's bleeding tendencies so that surgical staff is prepared for the possibility of increased blood loss or if the patient has a history of frequent or excessive bleeding.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY LAB TEST RESULTS?

Test results generally take between 24 to 72 business hours after your specimen is collected.

AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

No. You are not required to fast for this test.

WRITTEN BY:

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate in the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE YOUR TEST TODAY CALL 1.800.384.4567

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