

Any Lab Test Now

PROTHROMBIN TIME AND INTERNATIONAL NORMALIZED RATIO (PT/INR) TEST

DESCRIPTION

In most people when an injury occurs, blood clotting is initiated to stop bleeding and to begin the healing process. Platelets (small, sticky cell pieces) adhere to the clot and a fibrous net begins to form to cover the injury site. This is called the “coagulation cascade” as many different clotting factors are involved and each must occur properly and in the right order for clotting to occur. If any of these factors are not functioning properly, improper healing and excessive bleeding can occur.

Patients at risk for blood clots that can lead to stroke and heart attack may be prescribed an anti-coagulant (blood-thinning) medication to help prevent stroke, embolism (free floating blood clots) and heart attack. Other uses for warfarin are atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat), artificial heart valves, deep venous thrombosis (blood clots in the veins) and pulmonary embolism in which clots form in the veins and travel throughout the body. The PT test measures the speed of blood clot formation in seconds and is compared to the normal range for healthy individuals. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed and recommends the use of the International Normalized Ratio (INR) for standardized testing for individuals receiving the anti-coagulant, warfarin.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

Are you taking the blood-thinning medication warfarin? Do you suspect you may have a bleeding disorder?

People susceptible to blood clots that can cause strokes and heart attacks may be taking anti-coagulant medications, such as warfarin, to reduce the formation of clots in the blood. While on warfarin it is important to monitor the effectiveness of the medication: Is it working to prevent blood clots? This allows your physician to adjust the dosage to achieve the best possible results and prevent devastating strokes due to embolisms, to ensure smooth operation of artificial heart valves and to treat deep venous thrombosis.

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 do not need 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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