
Preface

The haemostatic system is one the most important physiological systems for maintaining health and well-being. Disturbances of the haemostatic system, in the broader sense (e.g., heart disease, strokes), arguably constitute the single greatest contribution to non-infectious mortality in the world today. Bleeding and clotting problems are also major causes of morbidity and mortality in patients with primary underlying diseases such as cancer, whether secondary to the disease or the therapy. In this context, understanding the laboratory methods to assess the haemostatic system is vital for the practice of complex clinical medicine. Perhaps even more importantly, the investigation of the haemostatic system remains a research priority.

This book provides a basic description of the major components of haemostatic system in the introductory part. The general principles of haemostatic testing are described in the second part, and subsequent chapters describe many of the common techniques used to assess various aspects of the haemostatic system, grouped according to their functional indications.

The techniques vary from biological clot-based assays to chromogenic assays and immunological measurements of proteins. The obvious link between all these assays is that they are all in vitro tests that do not really measure the haemostatic system in its functional reality. Thus no test can claim to truly measure the overall functionality of the haemostatic system. Rather each test provides a result which can, in the light of previous clinical research, hopefully predict something useful about the patient's current status or likely outcome.

There remains an urgent need for further research to develop better methods of assessing the haemostatic system in humans, and perhaps through reading this book, which highlights the benefits and shortcomings of most major tests currently available, a young scientist will spark an interest that will lead to that discovery.

Parkville, VIC, Australia

Paul Monagle



<http://www.springer.com/978-1-62703-338-1>

Haemostasis

Methods and Protocols

Monagle, P. (Ed.)

2013, XII, 431 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-62703-338-1

A product of Humana Press