SSC Subcommittee Project/Collaborative Project

Project: LAC testing in samples from anticoagulated patients

Subcommittee on Lupus anticoagulant/ antiphospholipid antibodies

Person responsible (Chair / Principal Investigator): Katrien Devreese, in collaboration with Hannah Cohen and Armando Tripodi as principal investigators

Description Abstract

The update of the ISTH guidelines for lupus anticoagulant detection dates from 2009 (Pengo et al, J Thromb Haemost 2009), and have been proven to be very useful to reach more uniformity in the performance and interpretation of LAC testing. Nevertheless, we feel that for some points these recommendations need another update.

One of the issues that should be addressed in more detail is LAC testing in samples from anticoagulated patients. Therefore, besides a more extensive Guidance that we plan to write, based on the results of the questionnaire and the panel discussion during the SSC in 2018, we want to address the topic of testing samples from anticoagulated patients in a separate Recommendation of our SSC. The Guidance will address LAC testing in anticoagulated patients from the clinical point of view of testing, timing of testing, cut-off values, calculation and interpretation of results etc. Both documents will be complementary with a clearly defined scope for each document.

The focus of the Recommendation will be how to test in anticoagulated patients focusing on methodology of lab testing and interferences of lab tests by anticoagulation. At this moment, there is a strong need to provide more clarity on how to test in this situation. Currently, a lot is ongoing on adsorbents of direct oral anticoagulants for instance. Some papers already have been published, but on very small series and false negatives and false positives have been reported. Also, testing during treatment with vitamin K antagonists remains a challenge for interpretation of LAC results. Little is known on interferences of heparins. In a separate paper dedicated to lab aspects of testing on anticoagulation, there is more opportunity to go into detail on that subject. We believe that this approach will result in more useful and applicable Guidance/Recommendations on both the clinical and lab aspects of LAC testing.

In a Recommendation we can approach a single topic on how to test and how to interpret the assays in patients during anticoagulation, being a more technical paper, very strict and short with recommendations on how to test. This gives the advantage to have the opportunity to go more into depth in one topic, and we can use this Recommendation to refer to in the Guidance.
Design and methodology (Data expected to collect, sample size and statistical analysis):

Based on published studies and expert opinion

Study population (Inclusion, exclusion, eligibility) (patient population; recruitment of participating institutions/physicians and subjects; minimum number needed; expected number):

NA

Expected timeline:

- Project stage/set up May 2019
- Launch May 2019
- Duration 9 months
- Finalization/analysis December 2019
- Reporting SSC 2020

Expected outcomes (ie. publications):

- Official communication of SSC

Description of project set/up and management, needed infrastructure and resources (summary):

The SSC LAC/aPL will lead the project, especially the colleagues with daily and practical lab experience.

No resources needed.

Possible references: