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## Activated partial thromboplastin time: An indicator for coagulation disorder in dogs

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### Abstract

The study was conducted to evaluate the Activated thromboplastin time in dogs affected with various hepatic disorders. The study group consisted of control and experimental dogs. The experimental dogs further classified into biliary, neoplastic and parenchymal source of hepatic dysfunction based on ultrasonography. The study was conducted for a period of one year and the citrated plasma sample collected was evaluated for activated thromboplastin time. APTT values in dogs with parenchymal, neoplastic and biliary disorders showed significant increase ( $P < 0.01$ ) when compared to the control group of dogs. Alteration of APTT values in the experimental group indicates significant alteration in the coagulation mechanism in dogs affected with hepatic dysfunction of different etiology. Thus, the results of this study suggest that dogs affected with parenchymal, biliary and neoplastic type of hepatic disorders showed significant prolongation in APTT indicating defect in the coagulation cascade of both intrinsic and common pathway resulted in impaired clotting.

**Keywords:** hepatic disorder, haemostasis, APTT, canines

### Introduction

Hepatic physiology is closely related to hemostasis. The hepatic parenchyma is the site of synthesis of most of the clotting factors which are involved in the coagulation cascade to maintain hemostasis. They are also associated with the regulation and also proper removal of activated clotting and fibrinolytic factors of coagulation (Prater, 2000; Niles *et al.*, 2001) [9, 10]. Coagulation abnormalities in hepatic disorders occurs due to improper functioning of liver, impaired vitamin k synthesis and defect in clotting factors synthesis. Patients with hepatic insufficiency showed disseminated intravascular coagulopathies which may leads to bleeding conditions (Webster and Centre, 1995; Mijovski, 2019) [6, 7]. Estimation of Coagulation parameters has prognostic significance in acute and chronic liver dysfunctions in both human and Veterinary patients (Shih *et al.*, 2007) [12]. Activated partial thromboplastin time is one of the screening test done to identify the coagulation changes in dogs affected with hepatic disorders (Geschen, 2009; Sumathi *et al.*, 2012 and Lakshmi *et al.*, 2018) [13]. Hence the study is conducted to measure the APTT in dogs with hepatic disorders of various etiology.

### Materials and Method

#### Sample collection

The study was conducted in dogs presented to Madras veterinary college teaching hospital clinical complex in the year 2019. Twenty apparently healthy dogs formed the control group and twenty dogs showing symptoms of ascites, pectechial or echimotic haemorrhage, jaundice where selected and further classified as parenchymal, biliary and neoplastic disorders as per WVASA guidelines formed the experimental group. Citrated plasma was collected from the dogs selected for the study by centrifugation at 3000 RPM for 30 minutes and APTT was measured with two hours of sample collection.

#### Methodology

APTT was estimated using commercial kits supplied by Agappe Diagnostics as per the standard protocol (Biggs and Macfarlane, 1962) [1]. Reagent 1 ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) was pre-warmed at 37 °C prior to use. First one hundred microliter of test plasma was pipetted into a test cuvette and one hundred microliter of pre-warmed reagent 2 (APTT reagent) was pipetted into the test cuvette and the contents were incubated at 37 °C for 3 minutes. One hundred microliter of pre-warmed reagent 1 ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) was added into the test cuvette. Immediately after addition of reagent 1, the clotting time in seconds was recorded using semi-automated coagulation instrument (Mispa Clog).

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## Result

The mean  $\pm$  SE values of APTT in the control and experimental groups are presented in Table. The mean  $\pm$  SE values of APTT in control group was  $35.45 \pm 1.33$  seconds and the mean  $\pm$  SE values of APTT in parenchymal, neoplastic and biliary disorders of liver disease dogs were

$130.22 \pm 20.79$ seconds,  $156.39 \pm 47.60$ seconds and  $125.69 \pm 25.72$  seconds, respectively. A significant increase ( $P < 0.01$ ) in APTT was observed in the dogs with parenchymal, neoplastic and biliary disorders when compared to the control group of dogs.

**Table 1:** Haemostatic profile of control and experimental groups

| Parameters                                      | Control group<br>(n = 20)<br>Mean $\pm$ SE | Experimental groups (n = 20)                      |  |   | F- value |
|---|--|---|--|---|----------|
|   |  | Parenchymal disorders<br>(n = 9)<br>Mean $\pm$ SE | Neoplastic disorders<br>(n = 6)<br>Mean $\pm$ SE | Biliary disorders<br>(n = 5)<br>Mean $\pm$ SE |          |
| Activated partial thromboplastin time (Seconds) | $35.45 \pm 1.33a$                          | $130.22 \pm 20.79b$                               | $156.39 \pm 47.60b$                              | $125.69 \pm 25.72b$                           | 11.28**  |

## Discussion

Coagulation cascade is initiated with binding of calcium and ends with formation of clot. Coagulation cascade involves extrinsic, intrinsic and a common pathway to cause coagulation. Activated partial thromboplastin time indicates the functioning of coagulation factors involved in intrinsic coagulation cascade and common pathway factors such as factors II, V, X and fibrinogen. APTT is initiated by the exposure of contact system in the phospholipids in the endothelial tissues (Mijovski, 2019) [7].

In the present study, the APTT was prolonged in dogs affected with parenchymal, neoplastic and biliary disorders when compared with the healthy control dogs. These findings were in accordance with that of Shih *et al.* (2007) [12]; Prins *et al.* (2010) [11] and Elhiblu *et al.* (2015) [2]. In biliary tract disorders, the APTT was significantly prolonged when compared to control was similar to the findings of Neer (1992) [8]. The Prolonged APTT in biliary disorder may be due to the long standing cholestasis due to choleliths, that leads to decreased absorption of the fat-soluble vitamins resulting in a deficiency of vitamin K-dependent coagulation factors production in the hepatocytes (Neer, 1992) [8].

Dogs with neoplastic disorder showed significantly prolonged APTT when compared to the control group. Similar findings were reported by Hammer and Sikkema (1995) [4]. The prolonged APTT may be due to inadequate synthesis of coagulation factors by the liver and increased consumption of coagulation proteins by the exposed endothelial surface.

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