

Hemostasis in liver cirrhosis: shifting the balance



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Disclosures

No financial disclosures relevant to this presentation



Aims

1. What does prolongation of conventional coagulation tests in patients with liver disease mean?
2. Does prolongation of conventional coagulation tests mean that patients with liver disease are auto-anticoagulated?
3. Is there a role for hemostasis in fibrogenesis?

Question 1

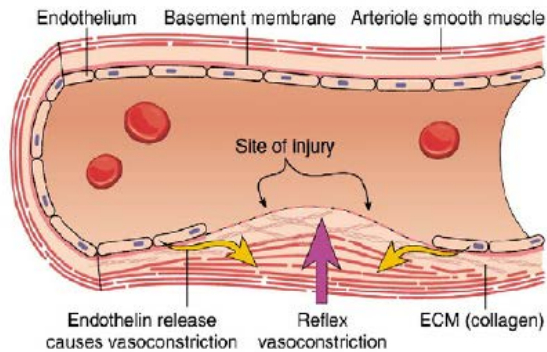
1. Which statement is correct?

1. INR is a prognostic test in patient with liver disease
2. INR elevation is a marker for bleeding tendency in patients with liver disease
3. All of the above

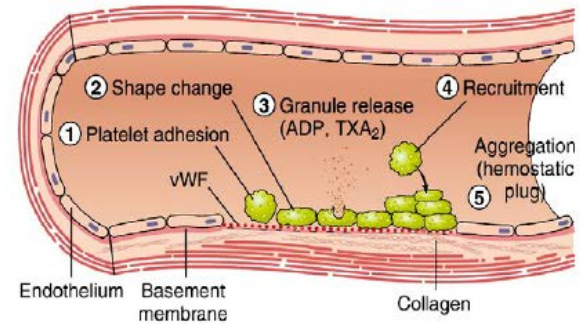
Introduction

- Hemostasis
 - Primary hemostasis (cellular factors)
 - Platelets
 - Secondary hemostasis (humoral factors)
 - Intrinsic pathway
 - Extrinsic pathway
- Blood coagulation is
 - Balanced by anticoagulant factors
 - Protein S/C
 - ATIII
 - Counteracted by fibrinolysis

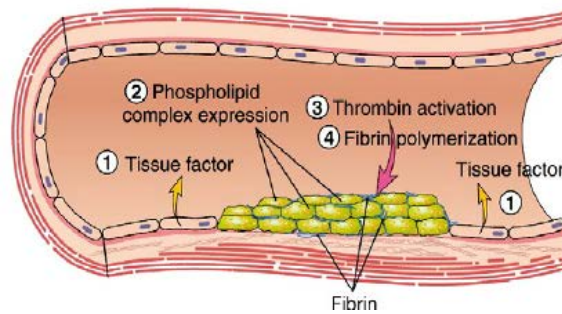
A. VASOCONSTRICTION



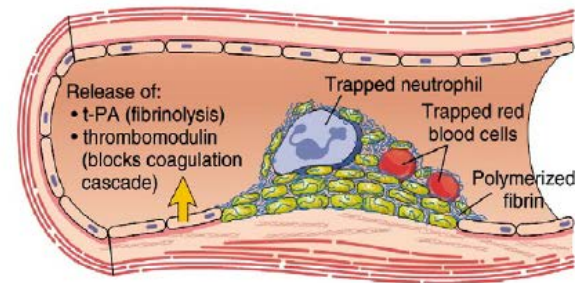
B. PRIMARY HEMOSTASIS



C. SECONDARY HEMOSTASIS

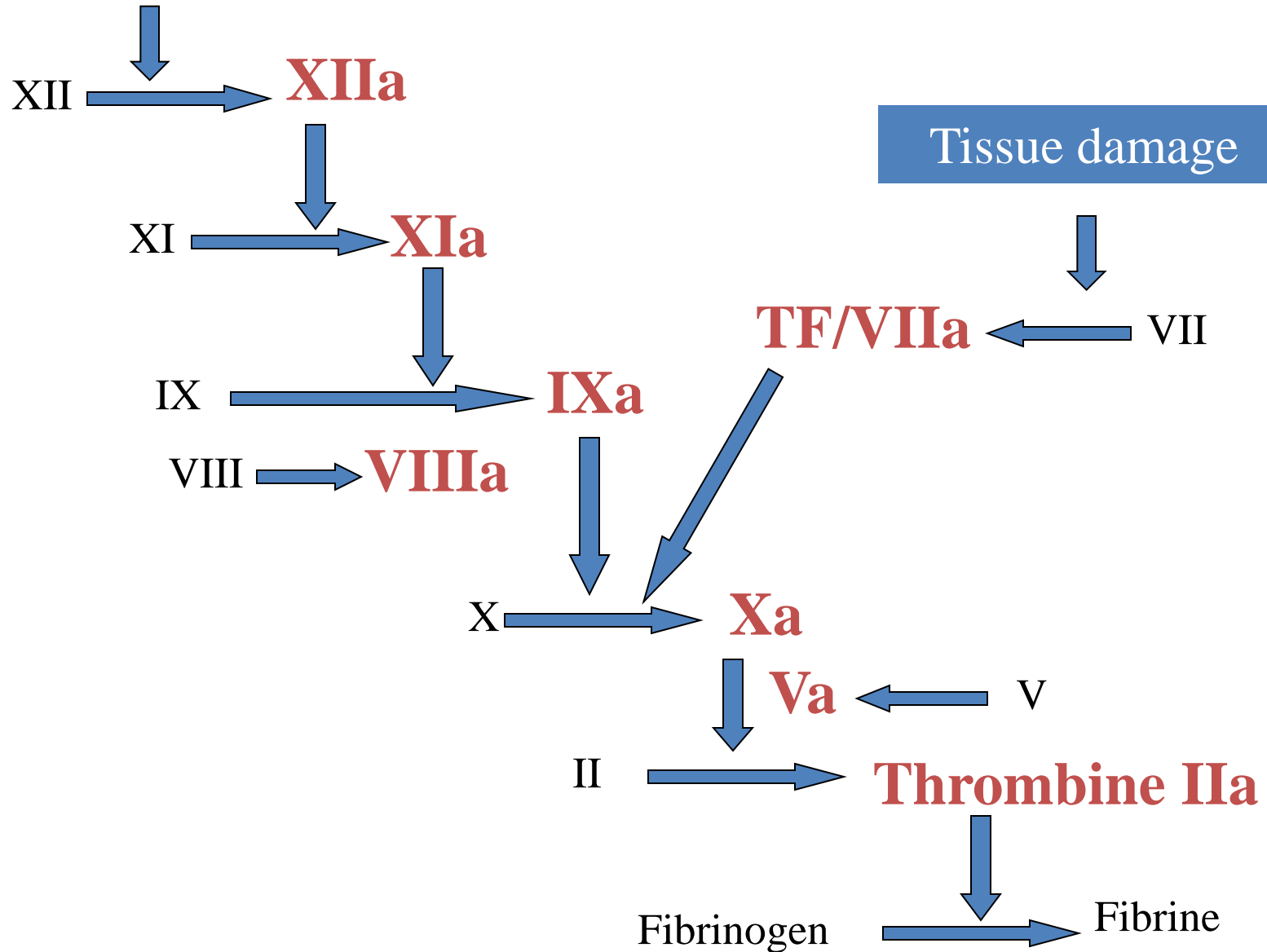


D. THROMBUS AND ANTITHROMBOTIC EVENTS

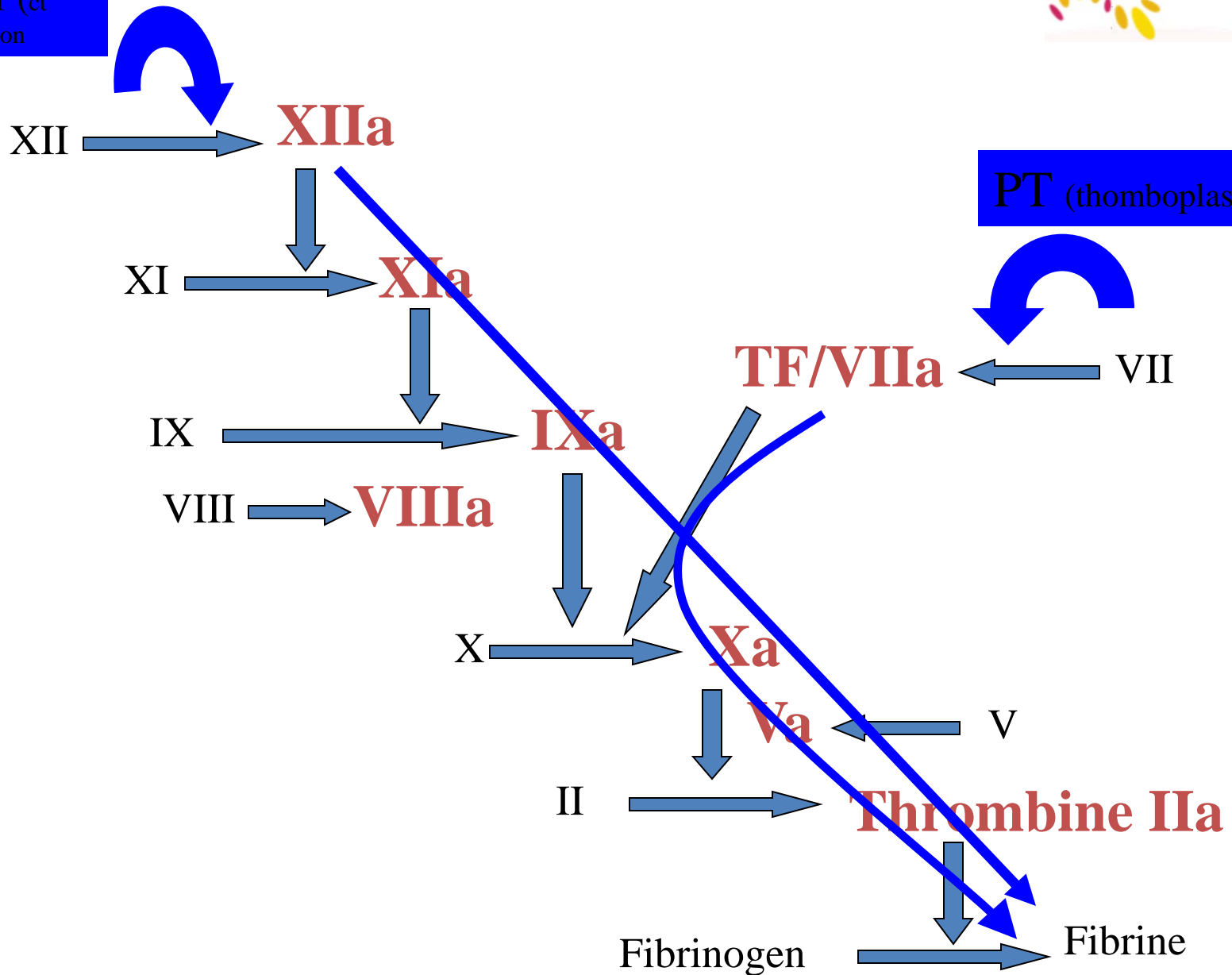




Contact activation

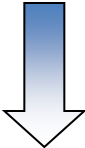


APTT (ct
activation)



Coagulation cascade

Tissue damage

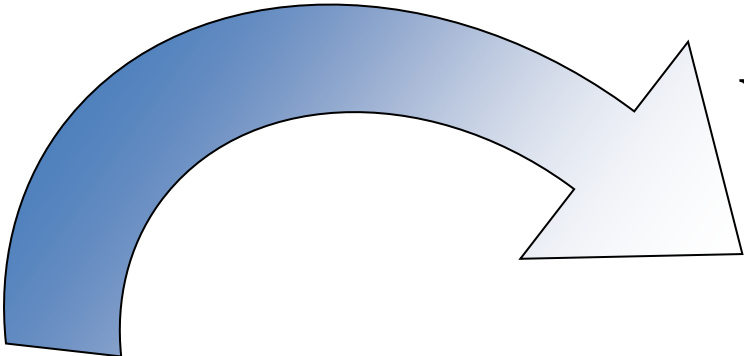


TF/VIIa

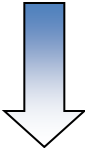


IXa

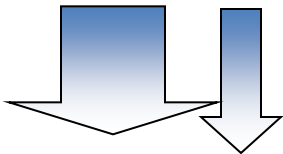
XIIa



VIIIa

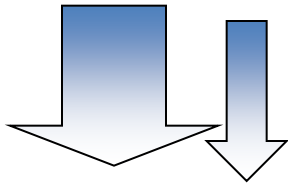


Xa



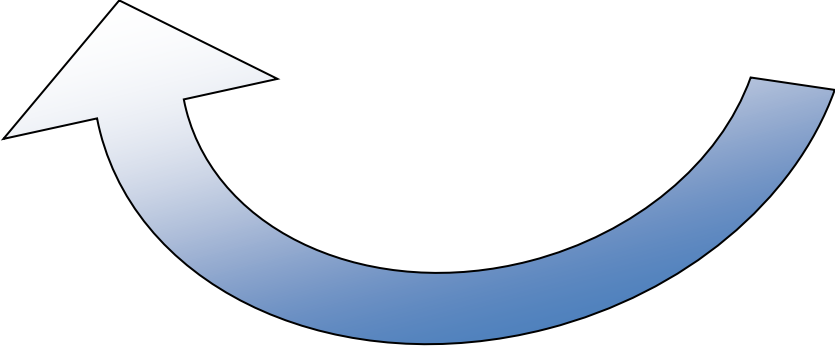
Va

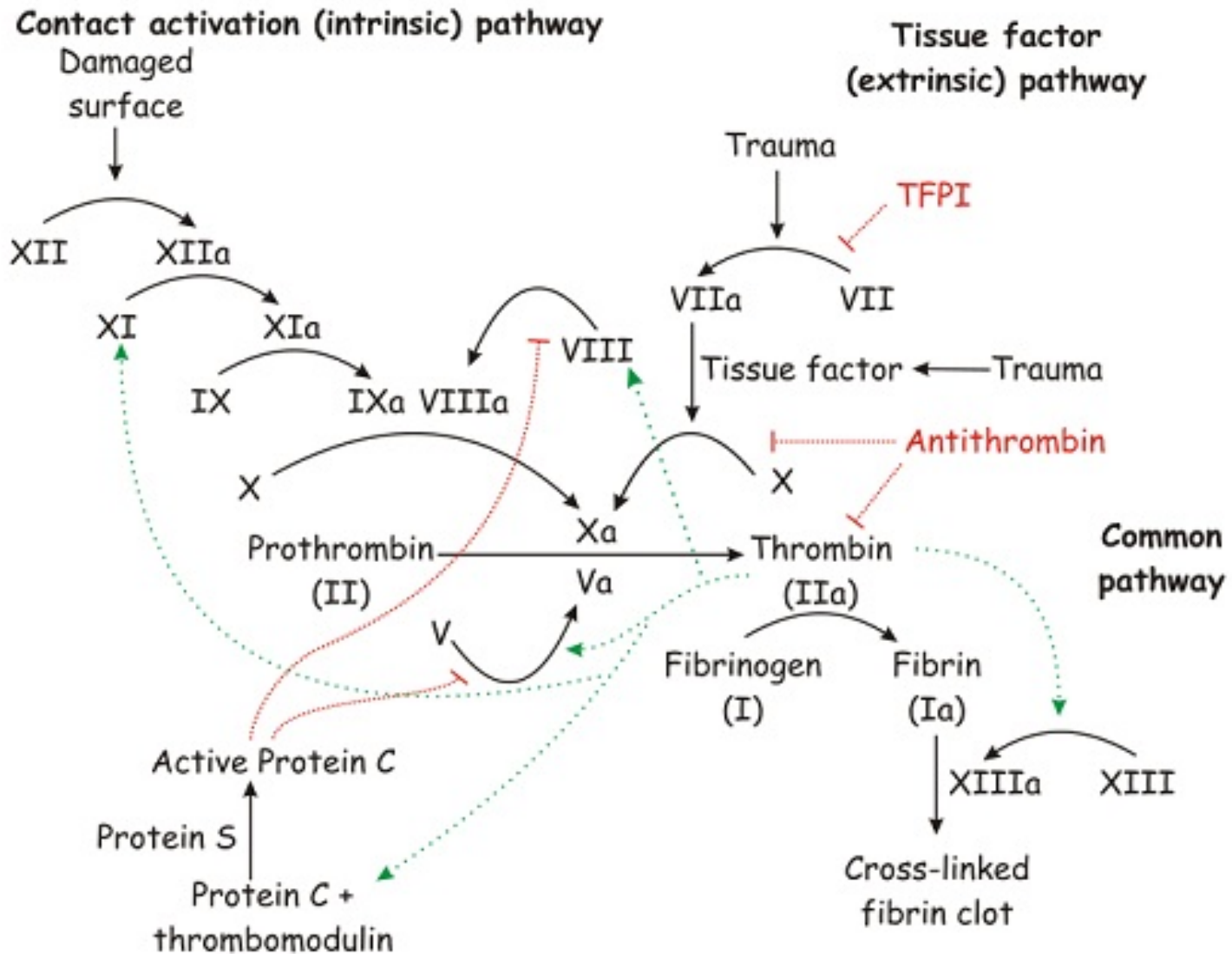
Thrombin IIa



Fibrine

XIa





Coagulation/hemostasis in liver disease

- Liver plays essential role in hemostasis and coagulation
 - Production
 - Pro-coagulant factors
 - Anti-coagulant factors
- Progressive liver failure → factor deficiencies:
 - In patients with liver failure PT/INR are prolonged
- PT and aPTT prolongation = important PROGNOSTIC factor in patients with chronic liver disease
 - Incorporation in different scores:
 - King`s college criteria ALF
 - Child Pugh score
 - MELD score

Early Indicators of Prognosis in Fulminant Hepatic Failure

JOHN G. O'GRADY, GRAEME J. M. ALEXANDER,
KAREN M. HAYLLAR, and ROGER WILLIAMS

Liver Unit, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Denmark Hill, London, United Kingdom

GASTROENTEROLOGY 1989;97:439-45

Table 2. Assessment of Prognostic Indicators in 121 Patients With Acetaminophen-Induced Fulminant Hepatic Failure

Prognostic indicator	n	Died	Positive predictive value	Specificity	Sensitivity	Predictive accuracy
pH <7.30	22	21	0.95	0.99	0.49	0.81
Prothrombin time >100 s	60	34	0.72	0.67	0.79	0.71
Serum creatinine >300 μ mol/L	54	30	0.56	0.69	0.70	0.69
Nonacidotic patients (n = 99)						
Prothrombin time >100 s	39	17	0.44	0.71	0.77	0.73
Serum creatinine >300 μ mol/L	49	17	0.35	0.58	0.77	0.63
Prothrombin time >100 s and serum creatinine >300 μ mol/L						
All	22	12	0.55	0.87	0.55	0.80
Grade III-IV encephalopathy	15	10	0.67	0.94	0.45	0.83

Conventional coagulation tests and bleeding



- In patients with unifactorial deficiency and patients on oral anticoagulants:
 - PT prolongation is correlated with risk of bleeding
- Chronic liver disease:
 - Historical dogma: liver disease = acquired bleeding disorder

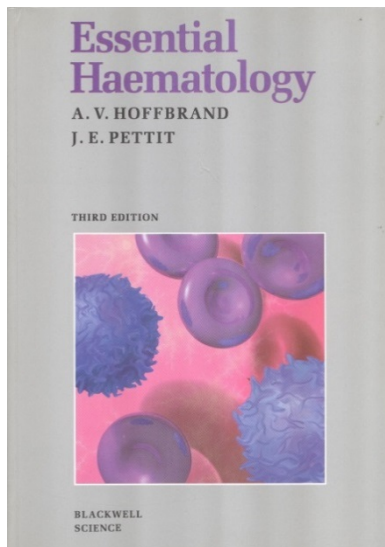


Table 18.3 The acquired coagulation disorders.

Deficiency of vitamin K-dependent factors
 Haemorrhagic disease of the newborn
 Biliary obstruction
 Malabsorption of vitamin K, e.g. sprue, coeliac disease
 Vitamin K-antagonist therapy, e.g. coumarins, indanediones

Liver disease

Disseminated intravascular coagulation

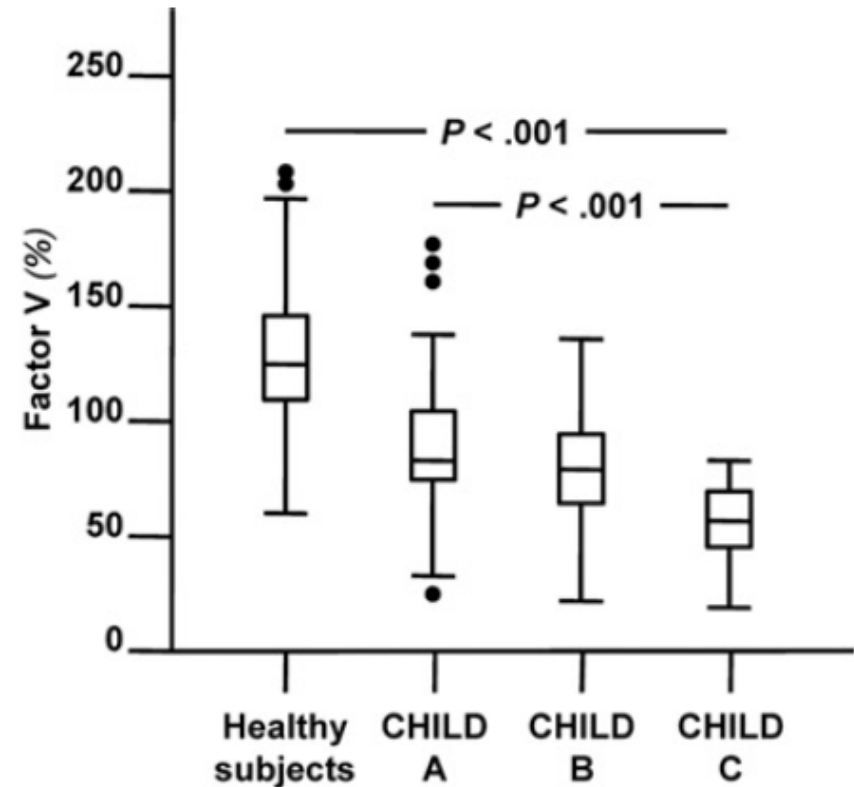
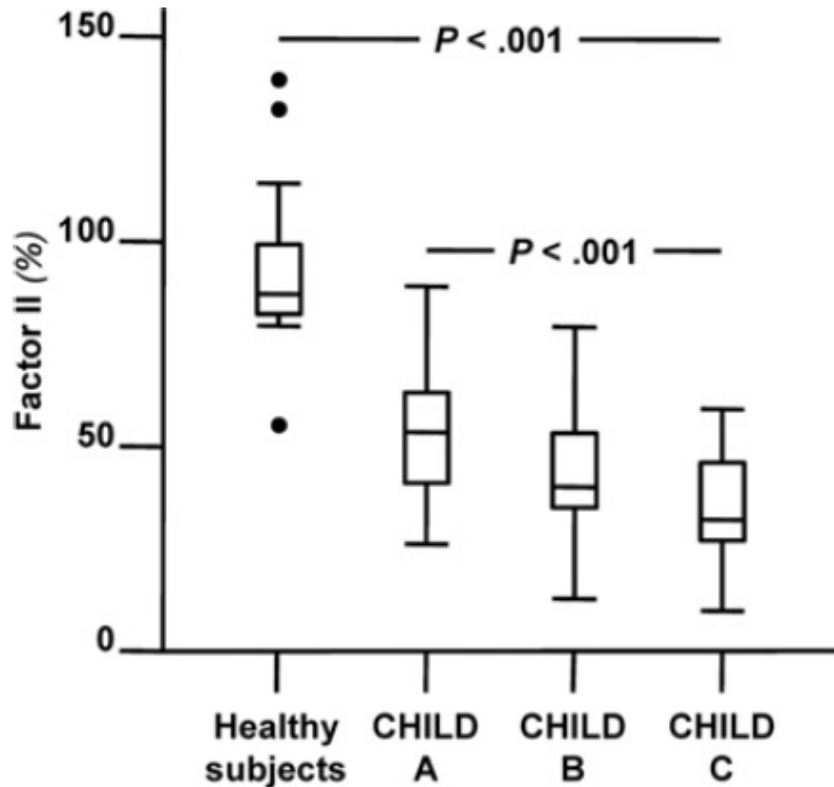
Inhibition of coagulation

Specific inhibitors, e.g. antibodies against factor VIII components
 Non-specific inhibitors, e.g. antibodies found in systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis

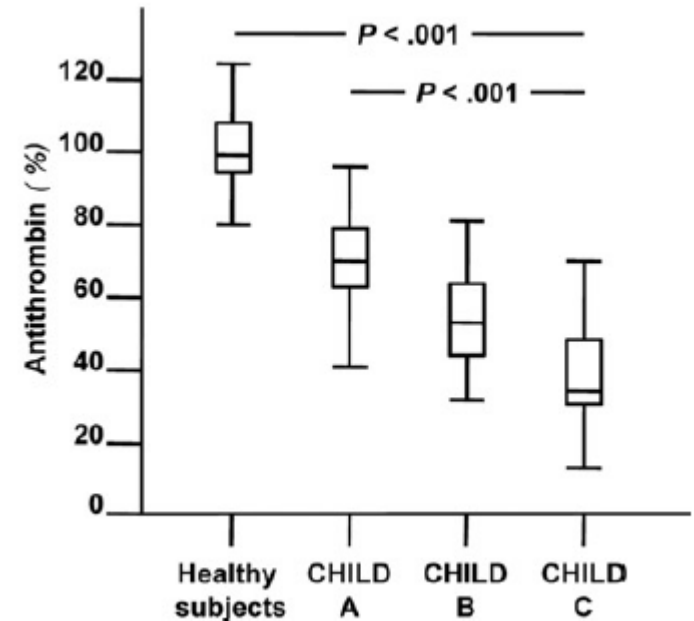
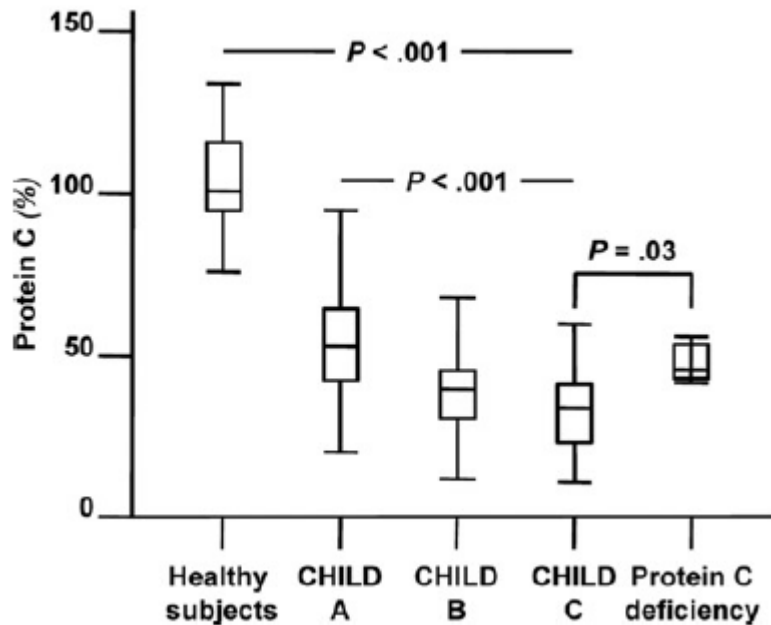
Miscellaneous

Diseases with M-protein production
 L-Asparaginase
 Therapy with heparin, defibrinating agents or thrombolytics
 Massive transfusion syndrome

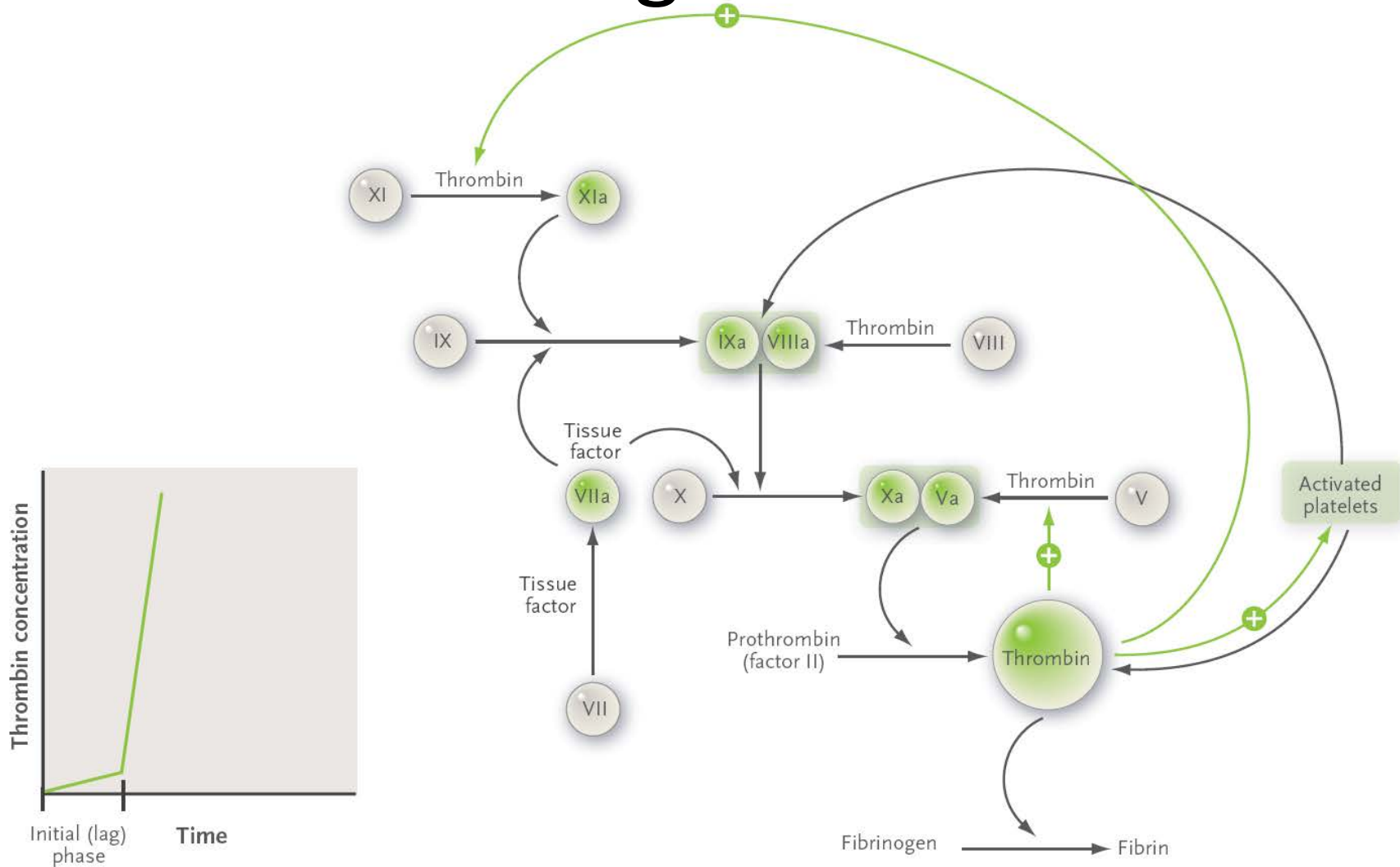
Reduced pro-coagulation factors in cirrhosis



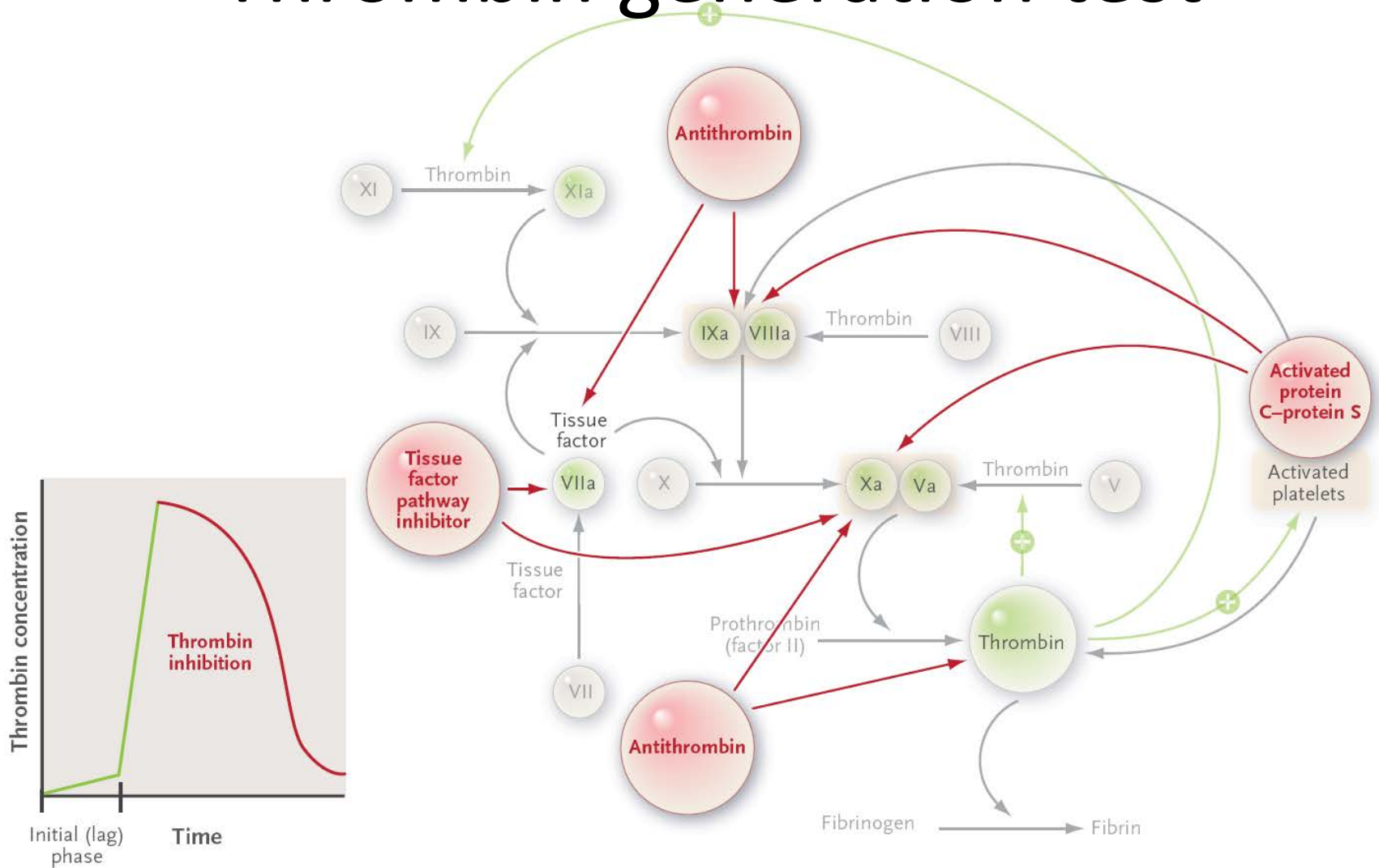
Reduced anti-coagulation factors in cirrhosis



Thrombin generation test



Thrombin generation test



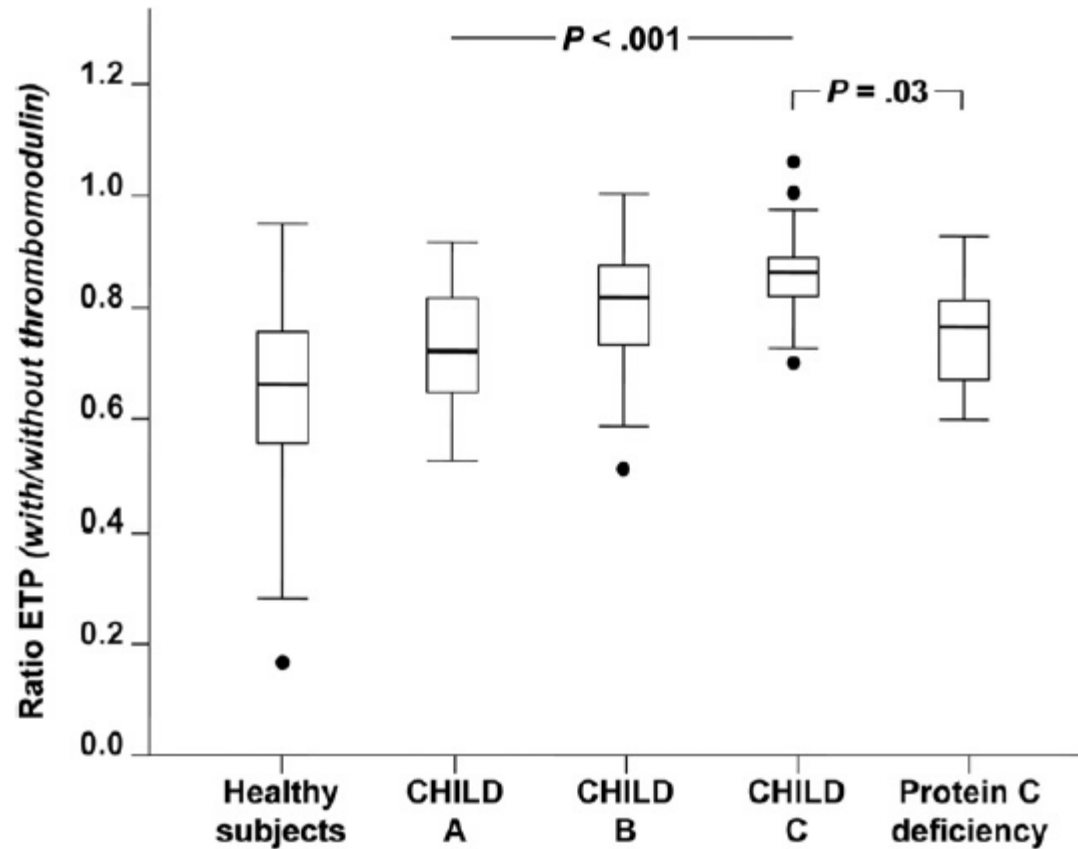
Evidence of Normal Thrombin Generation in Cirrhosis Despite Abnormal Conventional Coagulation Tests

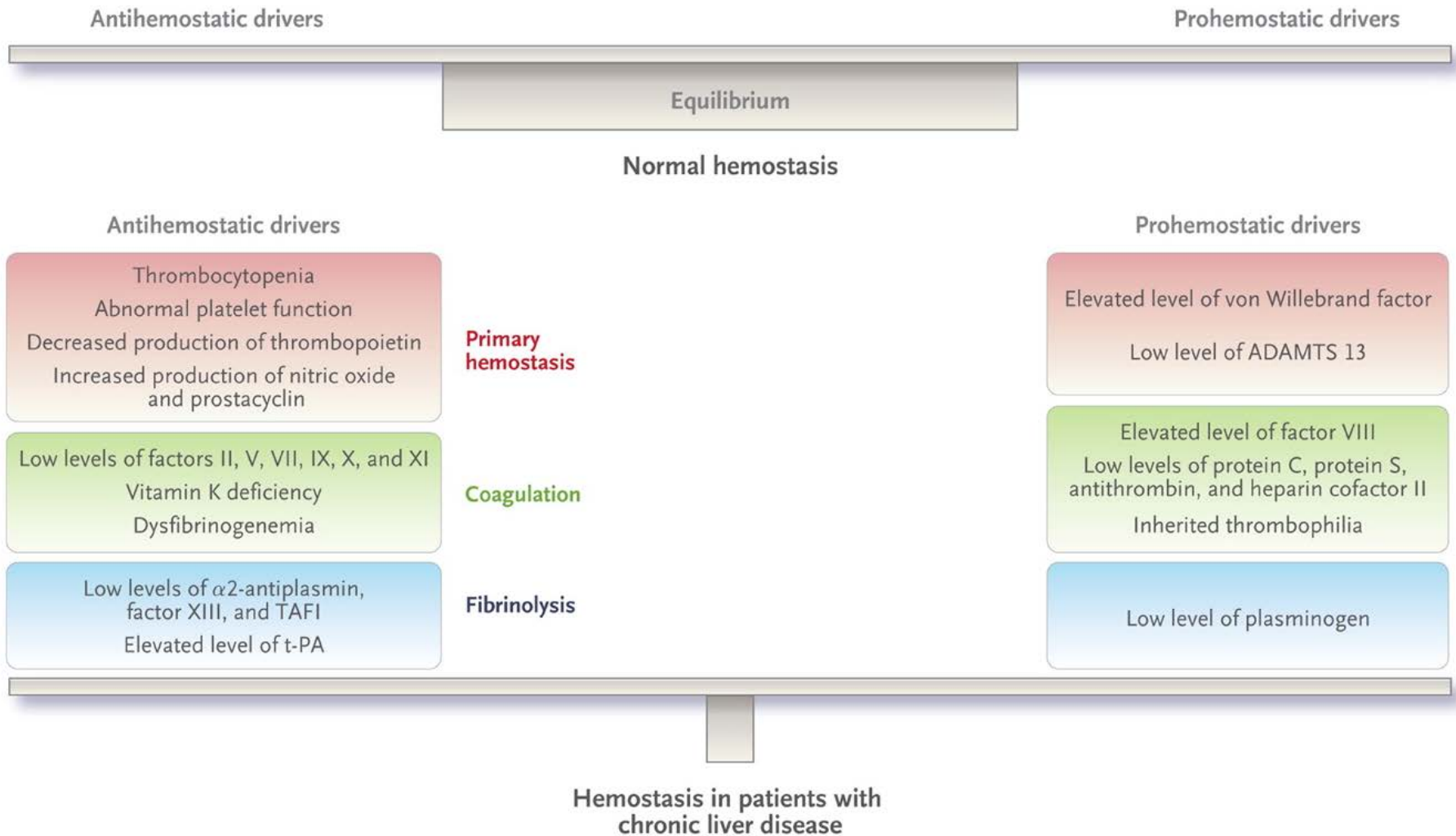
Armando Tripodi, Francesco Salerno, Veena Chantarangkul, Marigrazia Clerici, Massimo Cazzaniga, Massimo Primignani, and Pier Mannuccio Mannucci

HEPATOLOGY, Vol. 41, No. 3, 2005

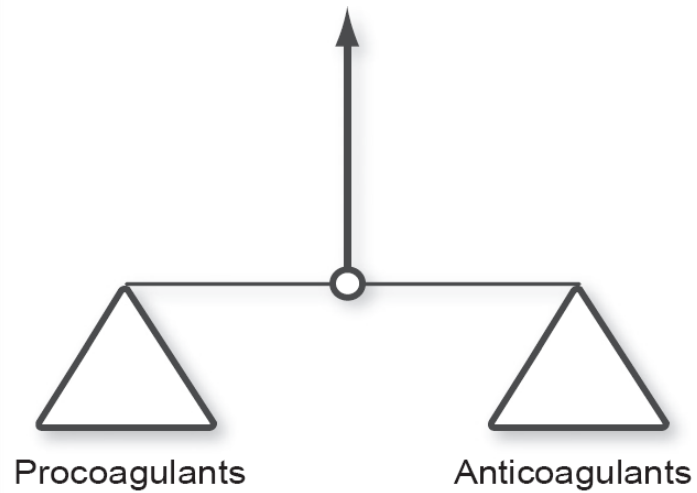
The role played by coagulation defects in the occurrence of bleeding in cirrhosis is still unclear. This is partly due to the lack of tests that truly reflect the balance of procoagulant and anticoagulant factors *in vivo*. Conventional coagulation tests such as prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time are inadequate to explore the physiological mechanism regulating thrombin, because they do not allow full activation of the main anticoagulant factor, protein C, whose levels are considerably reduced in cirrhosis. We used a thrombin generation test to investigate the coagulation function in patients with cirrhosis. Thrombin generation measured without thrombomodulin was impaired, which is consistent with the reduced levels of procoagulant factors typically found in cirrhosis. However, when the test was modified by adding thrombomodulin (*i.e.*, the protein C activator operating *in vivo*), patients generated as much thrombin as controls. Hence, the reduction of procoagulant factors in patients with cirrhosis is compensated by the reduction of anticoagulant factors, thus leaving the coagulation balance unaltered. These findings help clarify the pathophysiology of hemostasis in cirrhosis, suggesting that bleeding is mainly due to the presence of hemodynamic alterations and that conventional coagulation tests are unlikely to reflect the coagulation status of these patients. **In conclusion**, generation of thrombin is normal in cirrhosis. For a clinical validation of these findings, a prospective clinical trial is warranted where the results of thrombin generation in the presence of thrombomodulin are related to the occurrence of bleeding. (HEPATOLOGY 2005;41:553–558.)

Thrombin generation in cirrhosis

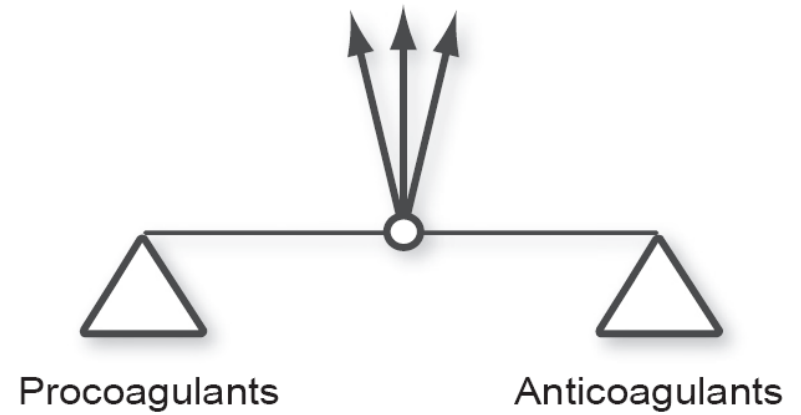




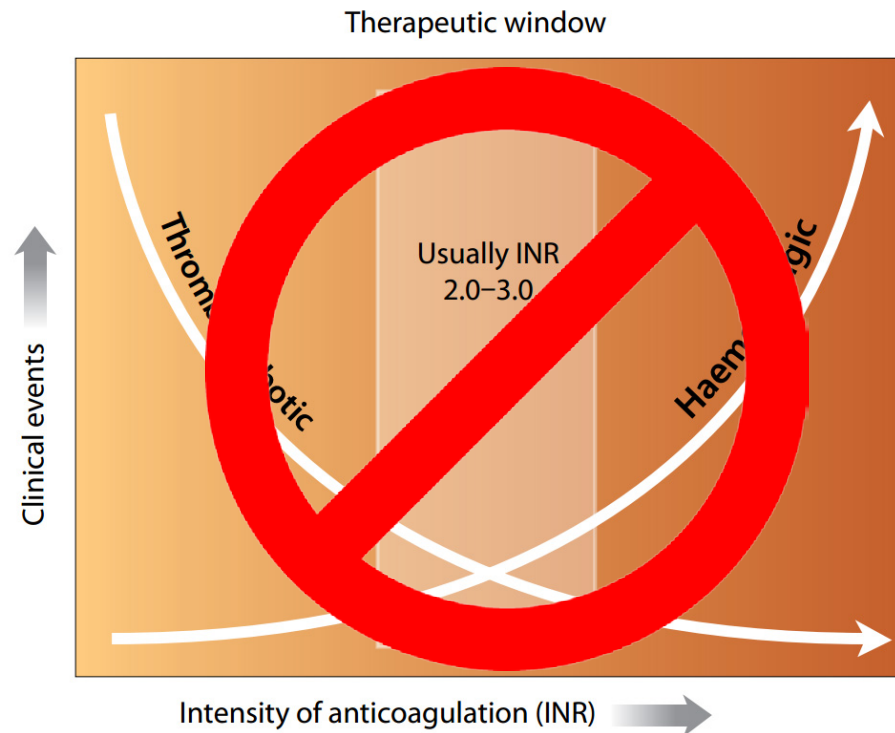
Normal situation – hemostatic balance



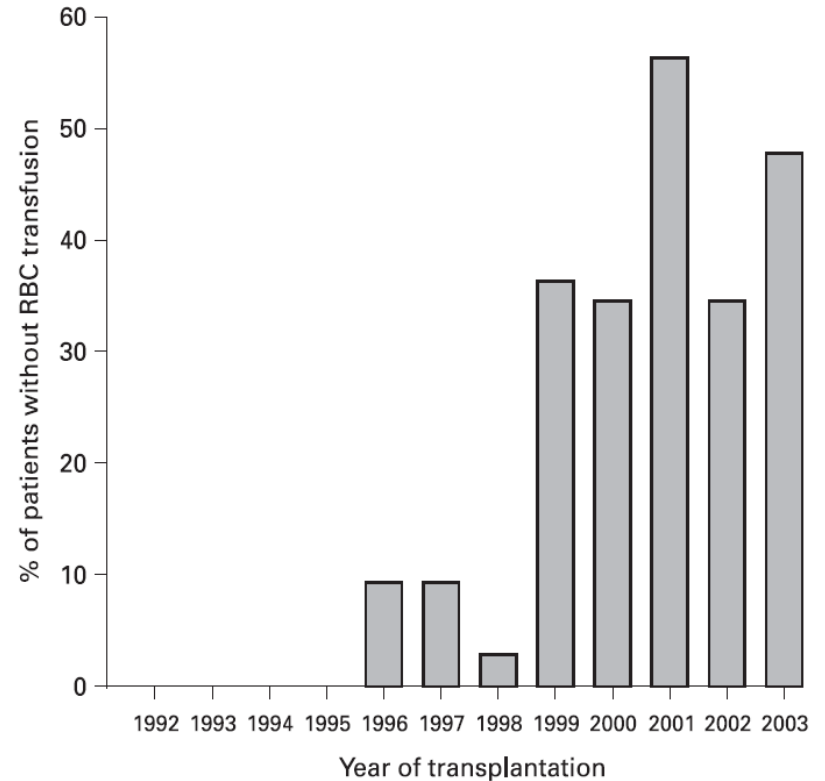
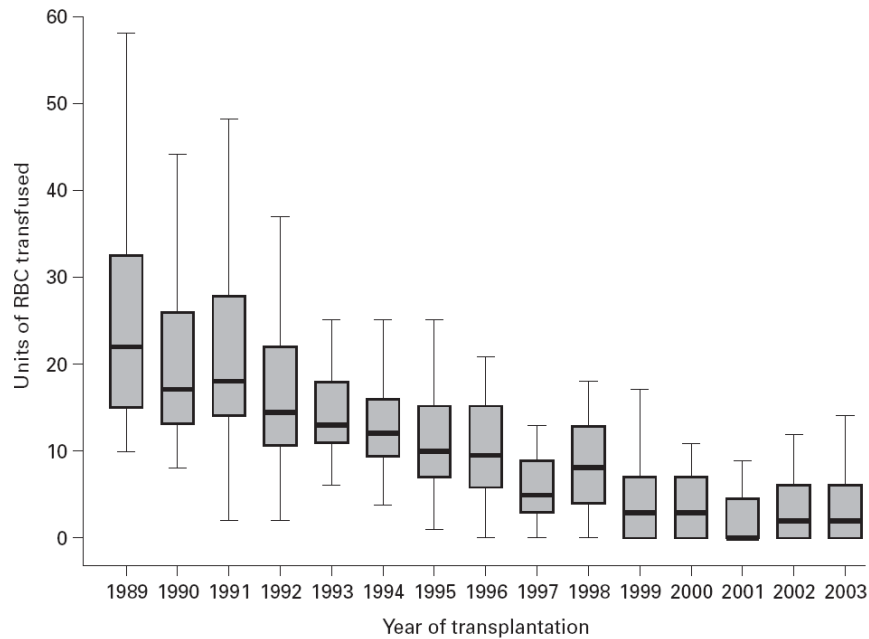
Liver disease – hemostatic rebalance



Are there clinical data supporting these data?



LTX blood loss and transfusion over time



Factors associated with bleeding in severe thrombopenia

Table 3. Characteristics of the 32 Patients With Severe Thrombocytopenia Who Underwent Invasive Procedures, Subdivided According to the Occurrence of Procedure-Related Bleeding

	Unit	Bleeders (n = 10)	Nonbleeders (n = 22)	P
Age	Years	56 ± 9	58 ± 8	NS
Gender	Male	8 (80%)	14 (64%)	NS
ALT	IU/L	44 ± 24	58 ± 62	NS
Albumin	g/dL	3.3 ± 0.4	3.4 ± 0.7	NS
Bilirubin	mg/dL	1.8 ± 0.8	2.5 ± 1.9	NS
Creatinine	mg/dL	0.8 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.3	NS
Hemoglobin	g/dL	12.3 ± 1.2	11.7 ± 1.9	NS
Hematocrit	%	35.5 ± 3.6	33.7 ± 5.6	NS
White blood cells	n/μL	4242 ± 2628	3674 ± 1842	NS
Platelet count	n/μL	50,200 ± 12,308	50,591 ± 14,895	NS
INR		1.36 ± 0.21	1.49 ± 0.27	NS
αFetoprotein	ng/mL	16 ± 16	28 ± 50	NS
MELD score		20 ± 4	23 ± 6	NS
Diabetes	Yes	1 (10%)	5 (23%)	NS
Hepatocellular carcinoma	Yes	5 (50%)	8 (36%)	NS
Esophageal varices	Yes	6 (60%)	19 (86%)	NS
Platelet transfusion	Yes	4 (40%)	3 (14%)	NS

NOTE. Continuous data are shown as mean and standard deviation and categorical data as absolute count and percentage. ALT, alanine aminotransferase; NS, not significant.

Factors influencing the bleeding risk in cirrhotics

1. Bacterial infections

TABLE 4. Univariate Logistic Regression Analysis of Possible Risk Factors for Failure to Control Bleeding Among Demographic, Clinical, and Laboratory Characteristics

	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	P Value
Age (per 5 years)	0.97	(0.86-1.10)	.68
Female	1.17	(0.61-2.22)	.64
Etiology of cirrhosis			
Alcoholic	0.78	(0.42-1.46)	.44
Posthepatic	1.99	(0.87-4.57)	.11
Other	0.95	(0.48-1.88)	.88
Child-Pugh score	1.24	(1.11-1.39)	.0002
Hepatomegaly	1.08	(0.58-2.03)	.80
Splenomegaly	0.73	(0.37-1.42)	.35
Ascites	1.68	(0.90-3.13)	.10
Encephalopathy	1.90	(0.93-3.89)	.08
Hemoglobin	0.89	(0.78-1.02)	.10
White cell count ($10 \times 10^9/L$)	1.03	(0.98-1.08)	.24
Platelets ($10 \times 10^9/L$)	1.00	(0.96-1.04)	.99
Prothrombin time	1.10	(1.04-1.17)	.002
Creatinine (/10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)	1.03	(0.99-1.08)	.14
Bilirubin (/10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)	1.00	(0.98-1.02)	.80
Albumin	0.98	(0.94-1.02)	.24
Aspartate aminotransferase (/10 IU/L)	1.01	(0.98-1.03)	.63
Alanine aminotransferase (/10 IU/L)	1.01	(0.97-1.05)	.57
γ -Glutamyltransferase (/10 IU/L)	0.98	(0.96-1.01)	.30
Antibiotic use	5.62	(2.56-12.35)	.0001
Proven bacterial infections	5.97	(2.98-11.94)	.0001

Factors influencing the bleeding risk in cirrhotics

1. Bacterial infections

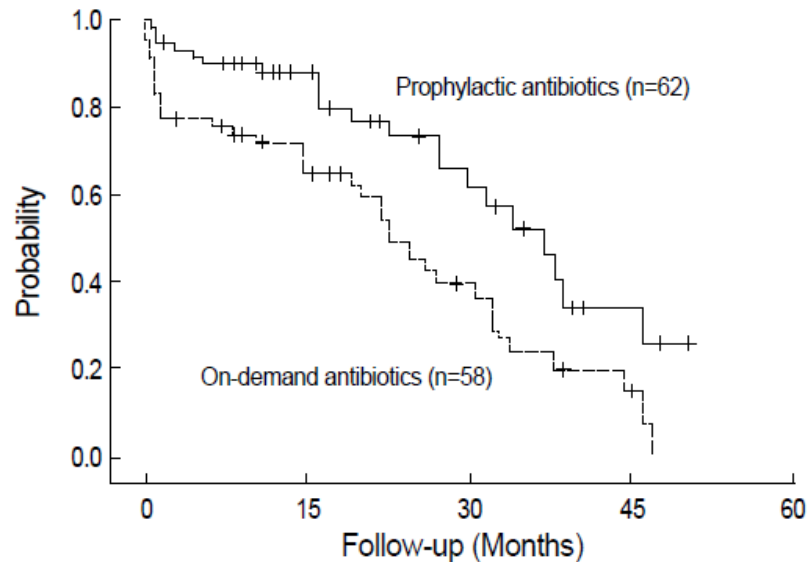


Fig. 1. Actuarial probability of remaining free of rebleeding in the patients in terms of prophylactic and on-demand antibiotics use. The difference between the groups was statistically significant ($p=0.0035$ by log-rank test).

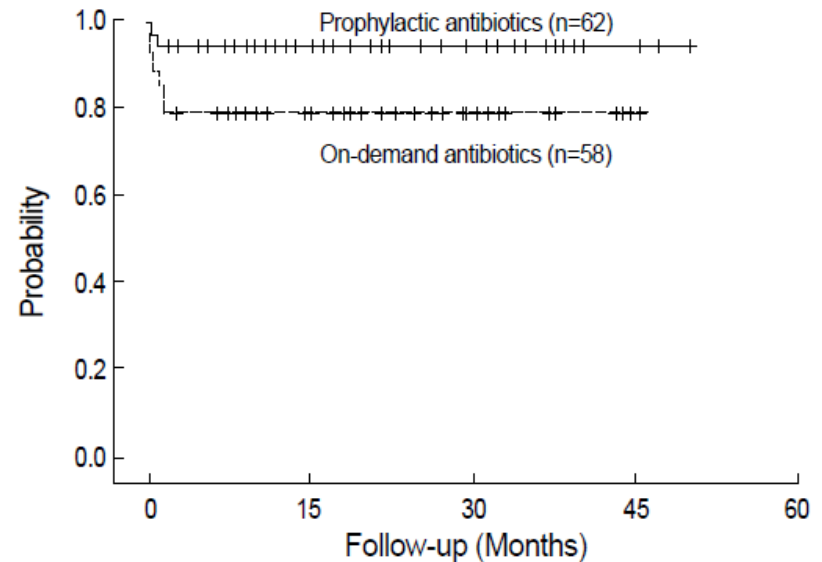


Fig. 2. Actuarial probability of remaining free of early rebleeding in the patients in terms of prophylactic and on-demand antibiotics use. The difference between the groups was statistically significant ($p=0.0085$ by log-rank test).

Factors inducing the bleeding risk in cirrhotics

2. Thrombopenia

Table 2. Type of Invasive Procedures Subdivided According to the Degree of Thrombocytopenia

	Platelet count	
	<75,000/ μ L (n = 32)	>75,000/ μ L (n = 18)
Endoscopic variceal ligation	9	9
TACE	8	3
TIPS	3	2
Dental extraction	4	0
Large volume paracentesis	3	1
Endoscopic polypectomy	2	1
RFTA	1	1
Thyroid biopsy	1	0
Endoscopic gastric biopsies	1	0
Liver biopsy	0	1

RFTA, radiofrequency thermal ablation; TACE, transcatheter arterial chemoembolization; TIPS, transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt.

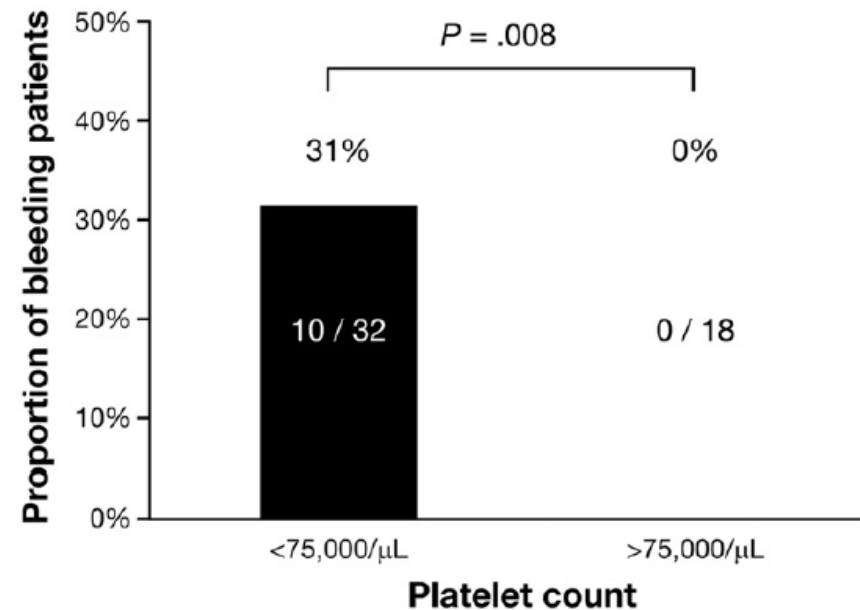
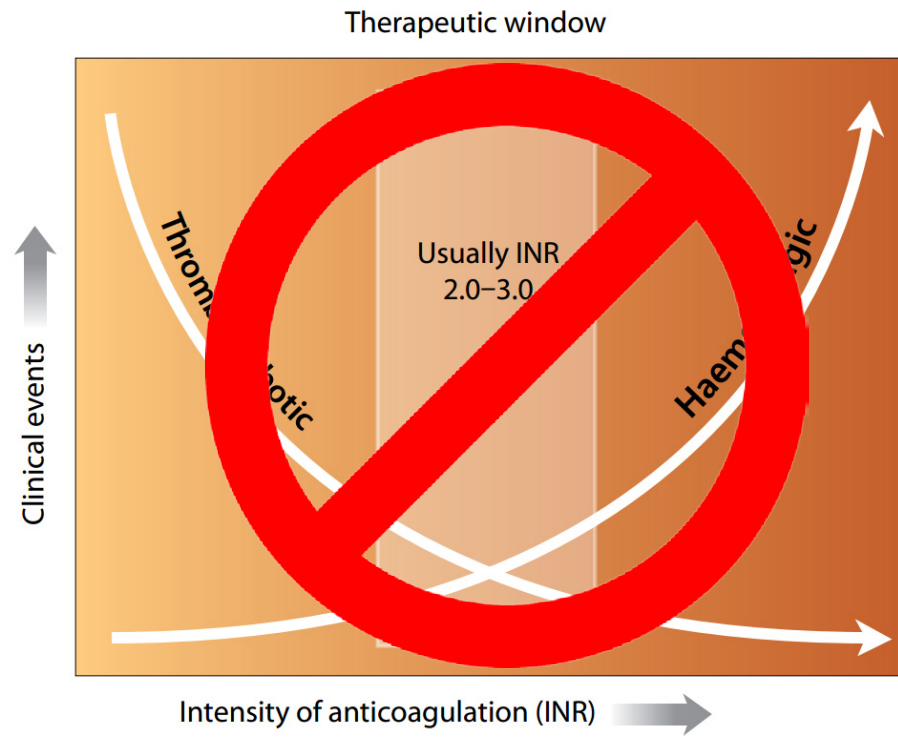
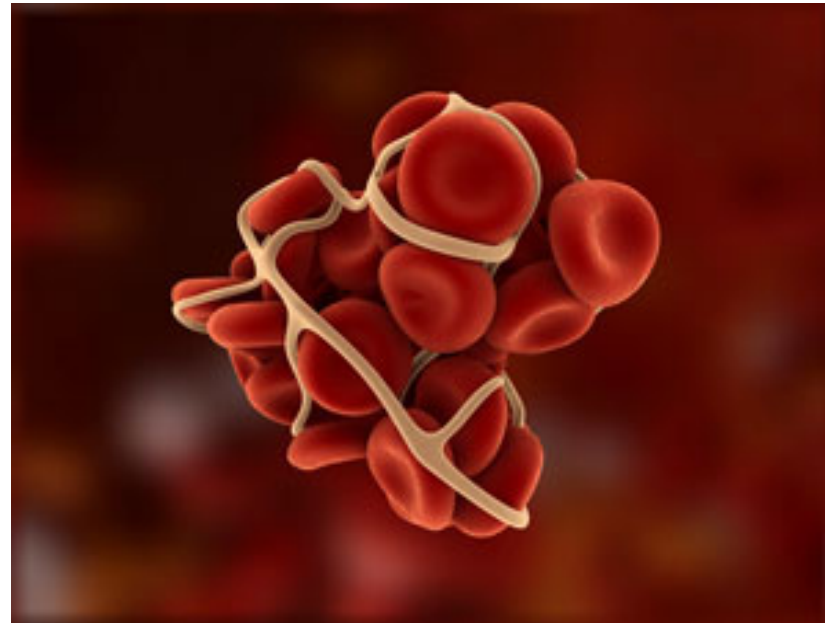


Figure 1. Number and proportion of thrombocytopenic patients who had procedure-related bleeding subdivided according to the degree of thrombocytopenia.



Auto-anticoagulation in chronic liver disease?



Auto-anticoagulation in chronic liver disease?



1. Clinical evidence

1. Patients with liver dysfunction are not protected from

1. Deep venous thrombosis:

1. Incidence of thrombosis increases with severity of liver failure

2. Portal vein thrombosis

3. Pulmonary embolism

2. Short life of renal replacements circuits in patients with liver failure

Deep venous thrombosis in liver disease

- Population-based case-control study of 99 444 with venous thrombosis versus 496 872 controls:
 - High relative risk for venous thrombosis for cirrhosis
- Despite prolonged conventional coagulation tests these patients should be treated with anticoagulation!!!

Table 4. Relative risks^a (odds ratios) and 95% CIs for VTE

Variable	All venous thromboembolism		Unprovoked venous thromboembolism	
	Crude RR	Adjusted ^b RR	Crude RR	Adjusted ^c RR
Liver cirrhosis	2.60 (2.34–2.88)	1.74 (1.54–1.95)	2.88 (2.52–3.29)	2.06 (1.79–2.38)
Non-cirrhotic liver disease	2.54 (2.36–2.73)	1.87 (1.73–2.03)	2.84 (2.59–3.11)	2.10 (1.91–2.31)
Liver cirrhosis and HCC	2.64 (2.38–2.93)	1.75 (1.56–1.97)	2.90 (2.54–3.32)	2.08 (1.81–2.40)

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma.

^aComputed with conditional logistic regression. ^bAdjusted for cancer, fractures, trauma, surgery, pregnancy, Charlson Index, psychiatric diseases, and obesity. ^cAdjusted for Charlson Index, psychiatric diseases, and obesity.

Portal vein thrombosis

- The prevalence of PVT is associated with the severity of cirrhosis
 - 1% compensated cirrhosis
 - 8-25% candidates for LTX

Table 2 Prevalence and relative risk (odds ratio) of PVT in relation to disease condition with major risk of PVT

Patient category	<i>n</i> (%)	PVT (%)	O.R. (95% C.I.) ¹	<i>P</i> value	O.R. (95% C.I.)	<i>P</i> value
Cirrhosis	1193 (5.0)	72 (6.0)	7.9 (6.0 - 10.5)	<0.001		
with primary hepatic cancer	182	26 (14.3)	17.1 (11.1 - 26.4)	<0.001	3.5 (2.1 - 5.8)	<0.001
without primary hepatic cancer	1011	46 (4.5)	5.2 (3.7 - 7.2)	<0.001	1 ²	
Primary hepatobiliary cancer	698 (2.9)	59 (8.5)	10.8 (8.0 - 14.7)	<0.001		
hepatic carcinoma	392	38 (9.7)	11.5 (8.0 - 16.5)	<0.001		
with cirrhosis	182	26 (14.3)	17.1 (11.1 - 26.4)	<0.001	2.8 (1.3 - 5.6)	0.004
without cirrhosis	210	12 (5.7)	5.8 (3.2 - 10.6)	<0.001	1 ²	
extrahepatic biliary / gall bladder carcinoma	313	21 (6.7)	7.2 (4.5 - 11.4)	<0.001		
Secondary hepatic malignancy						
from all tumours	3446 (14.5)	113 (3.3)	4.9 (3.8 - 6.2)	<0.001		
from pancreatic carcinoma	312	36 (11.5)	13.9 (9.6 - 20.2)	<0.001	5.2 (3.4 - 7.8) ³	<0.001 ³
gastric carcinoma	316	18 (5.7)	5.9 (3.6 - 9.7)	<0.001	1.9 (1.2 - 3.2) ³	0.019 ³
colorectal carcinoma	637	13 (2.0)	2.0 (1.1 - 3.5)	0.028	0.5 (0.3 - 1.0) ³	0.063 ³
Myeloproliferative disorders	231 (1.0)	7 (3.0)	3.0 (1.4 - 6.3)	0.012		
All patients	23796 (100)	254 (1.0)				

Thrombotic problems with extracorporeal circuits

- Circuit life is longer in hematology patients in comparison to patients with liver disease
 - Anticoagulation improved circuit life
- Thrombosis of liver assist devices is pertinent issue

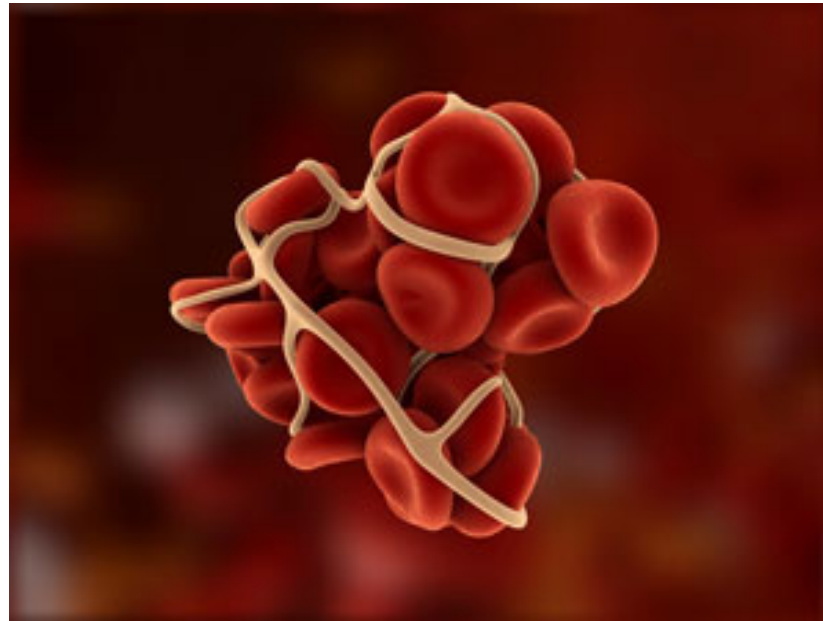
Duration of continuous renal replacement (CRRT) circuits.

Parameter	ALF	ACLD	Post-LTx	Sepsis	Haematological
Filter life in hours – 1st filter	11 (10.5)	11.6 (6.6)	7.4 (5.1)	9.2 (6.4)	24.3 (22.9)
Filter life in hours – 2nd filter	9 (7.6)	11.9 (6.41)	7.7 (5.3)	12.0 (9.0)	21.1 (19.7)
Filter life in hours – 3rd filter	11.7 (8)	8.8 (9.5)	9.2 (8.2)	11.5 (11.4)	16.3 (6.3)
Mean filter life in hours – 1st–3rd filter	10.4 (8.6)	11.1 (7.8)	8.1 (6.2)	11.6 (11.4)	21.7 (19.7)*
Number of filters used/48 h	4.3 (1.3)	4.2 (2.1)	5.3 (1.5)	4.6 (1.5)	2.4 (1.1)**
Number of filter clots the 1st 3 CRRT circuit	2.1 (0.7)	1.9 (1.1)	1.9 (1.1)	2.1 (1.1)	1.8 (1)
Number of PRBC transfusion	4.8 (4.2)	4.2 (4.16)	2.2 (2.1)	3.0 (1.6)	1.2 (1.3)

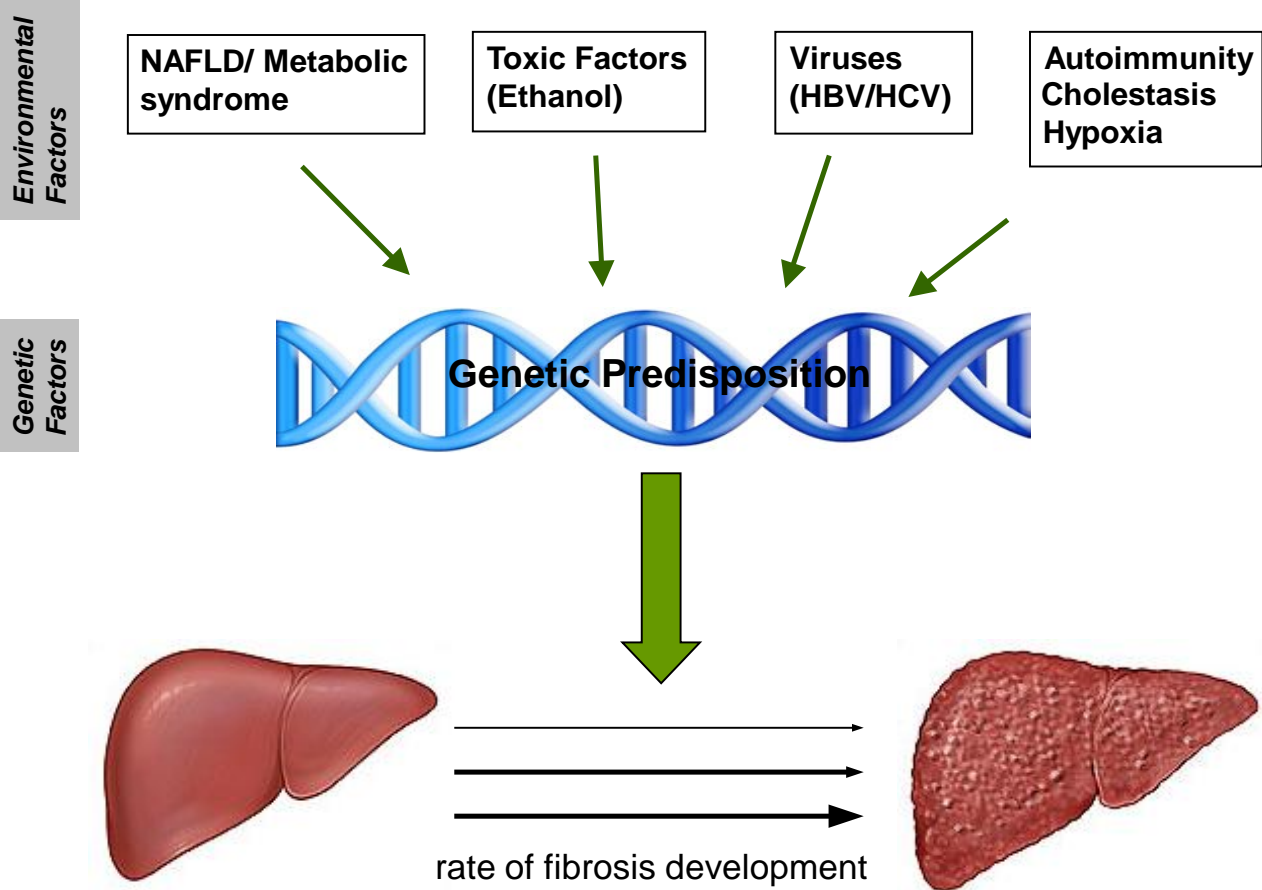
Agarwal, J Hep 2009

Laleman, Crit Care 2006

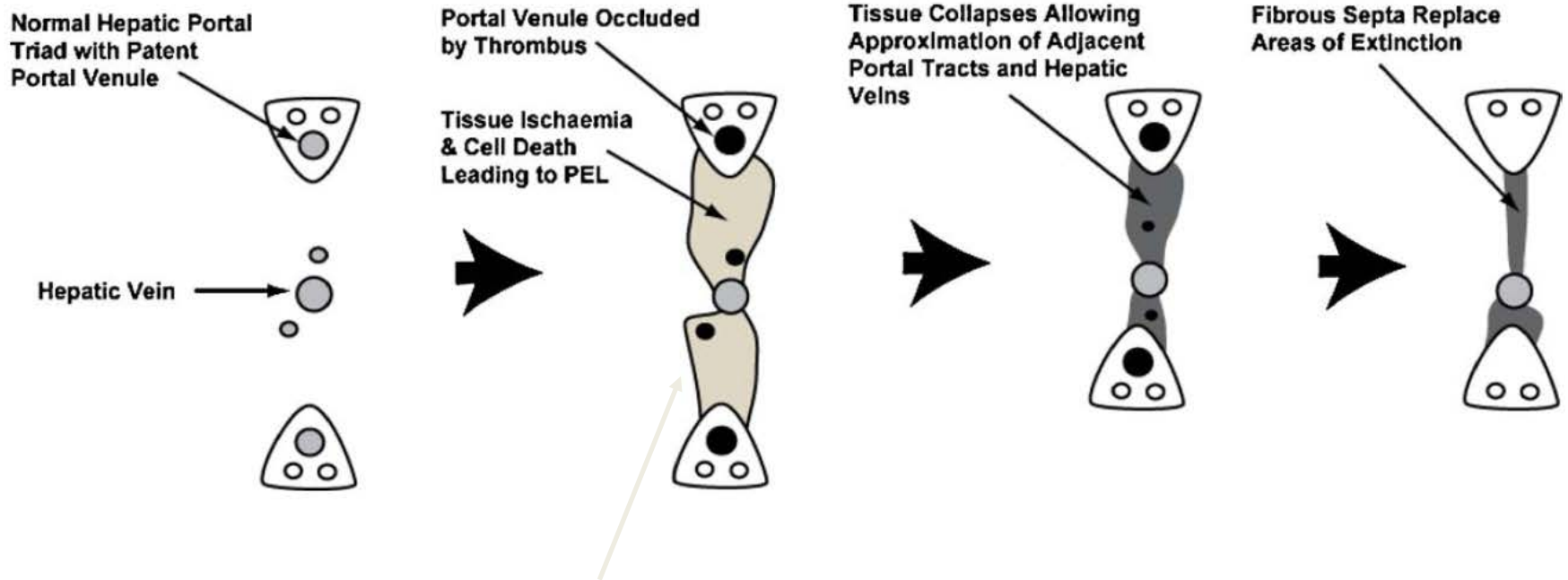
Patients with liver disease have a higher prevalence
of thrombotic events!!



Pathophysiological role of hemostasis

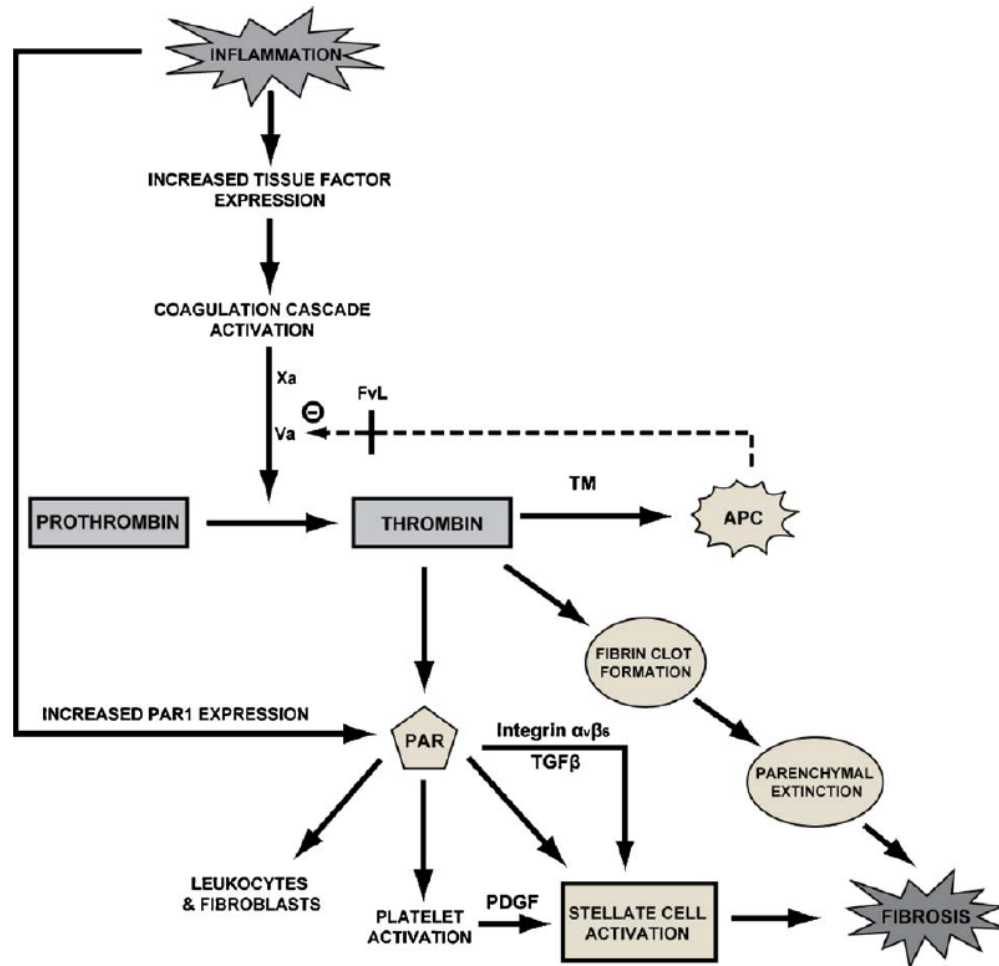


Correlation between grade of fibrosis and microvascular thrombi



Parenchymal extinction lesions

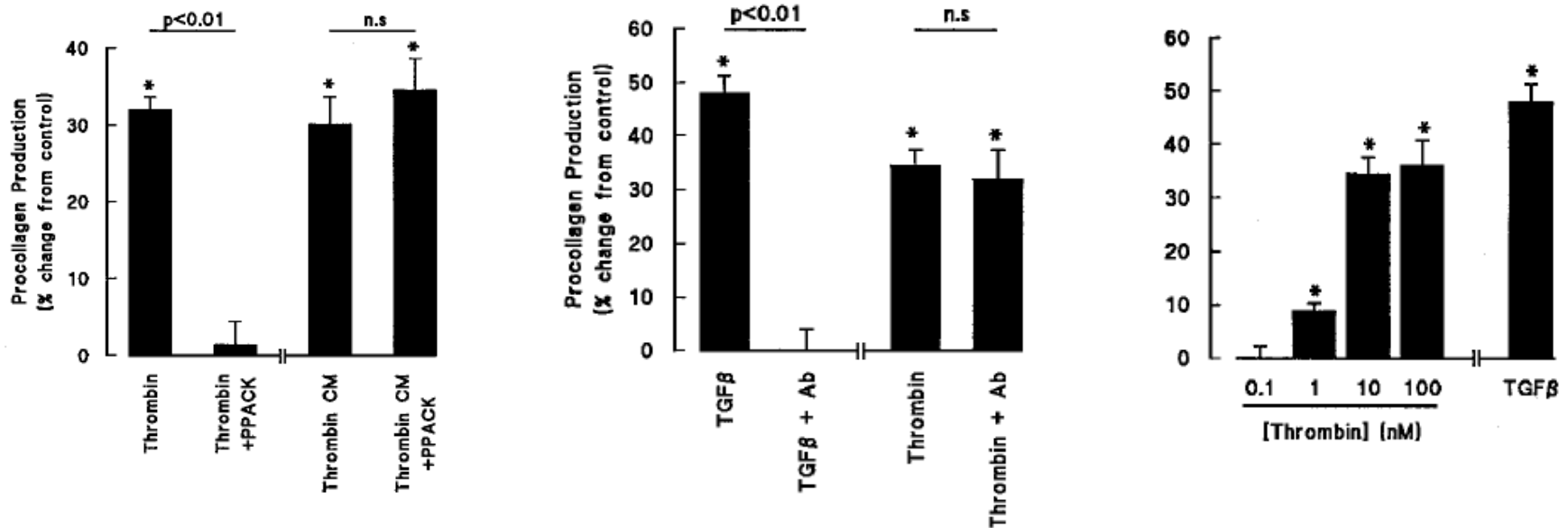
Direct stellate cell activation hypothesis



Thrombin Stimulates Smooth Muscle Cell Procollagen Synthesis and mRNA Levels via a PAR-1 Mediated Mechanism

K. Dabbagh, G. J. Laurent, R. J. McAnulty, R. C. Chambers

From the Centre for Cardiopulmonary Biochemistry and Respiratory Medicine, University College, London Medical School, The Rayne Institute, London, United Kingdom



Warfarin treated animals

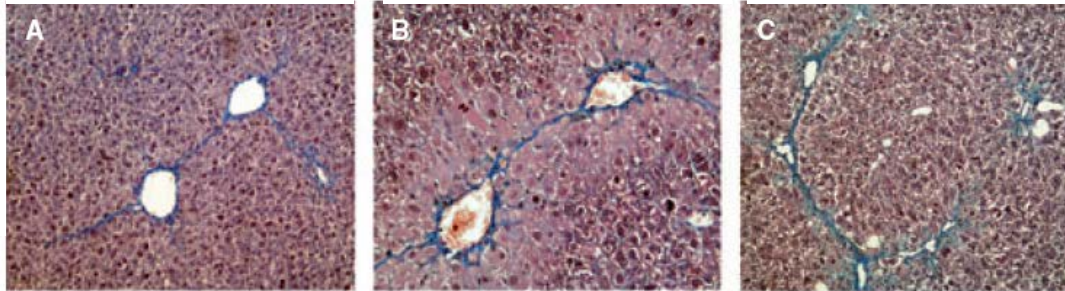
Control animals

Transgenic Factor V Leiden

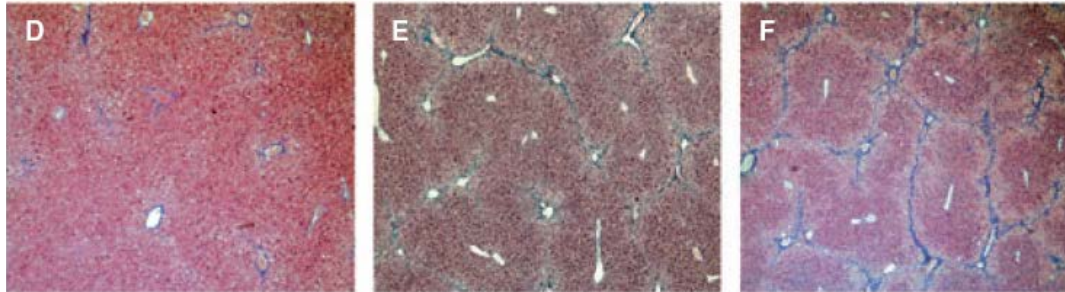
CCL₄

CCL₄

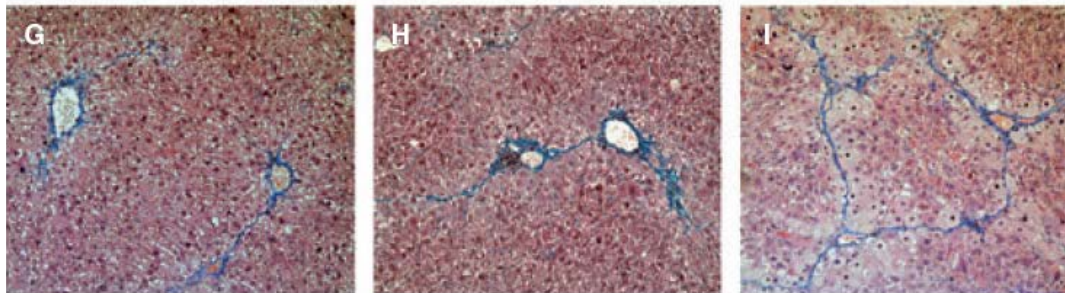
2 weeks



4 weeks (low)



4 weeks (high)



Factor V Leiden polymorphisms and rate of fibrosis

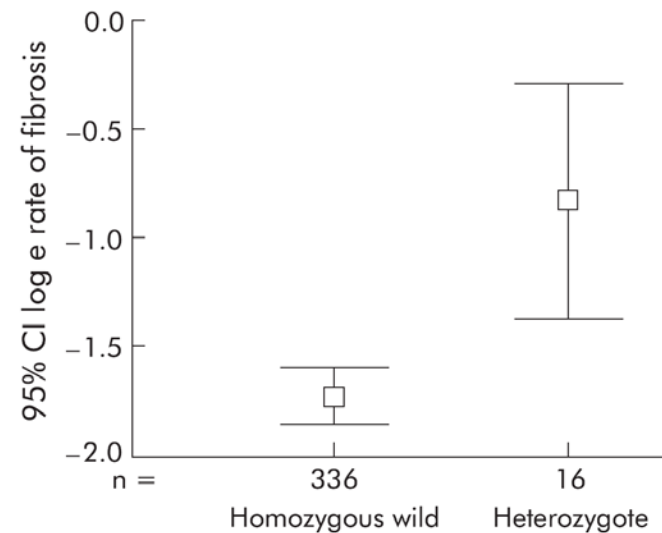
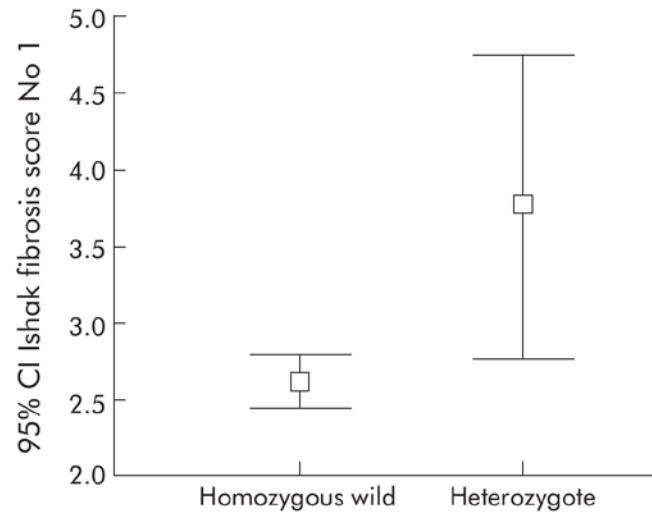
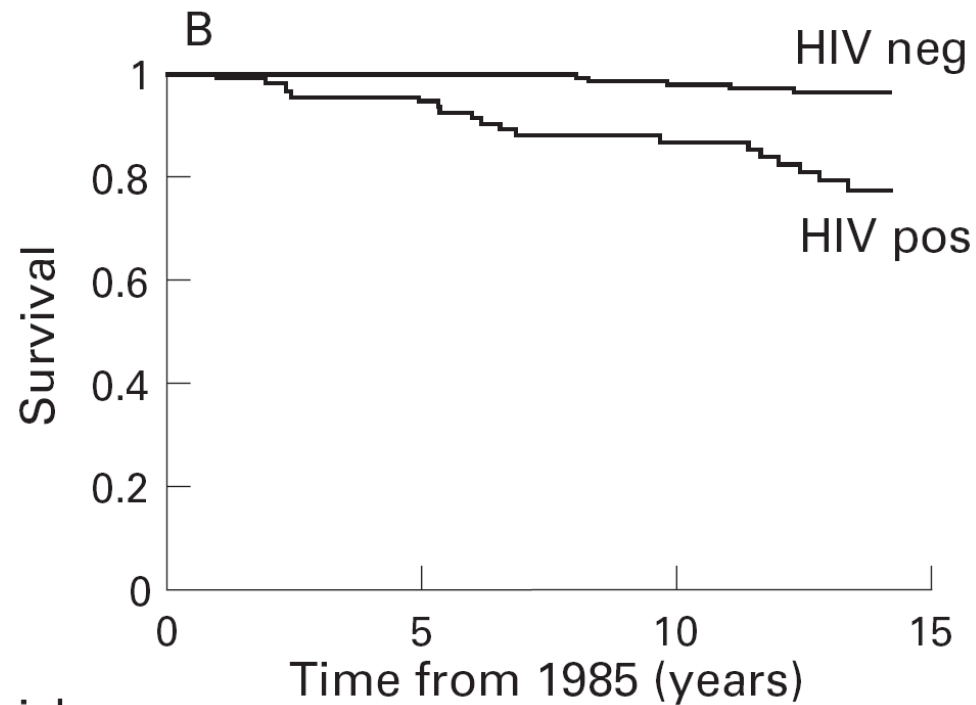


Table 2 Summary of disease association and ANOVA results for factor V Leiden

	Study population	Wild-type factor 5	Factor V Leiden heterozygotes	
Total population	352	336	16	ANOVA, p=0.004
Fast	170	158	12	Fisher's exact, p=0.029; OR 3.38 (95% CI 1-12.7)
Slow	182	178	4	

OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

Liver related death in Hep C infected haemophilics



No. at risk

HIV neg	183	173	158
HIV pos	121	98	67

Prothrombotic genetic risk factors and liver fibrosis

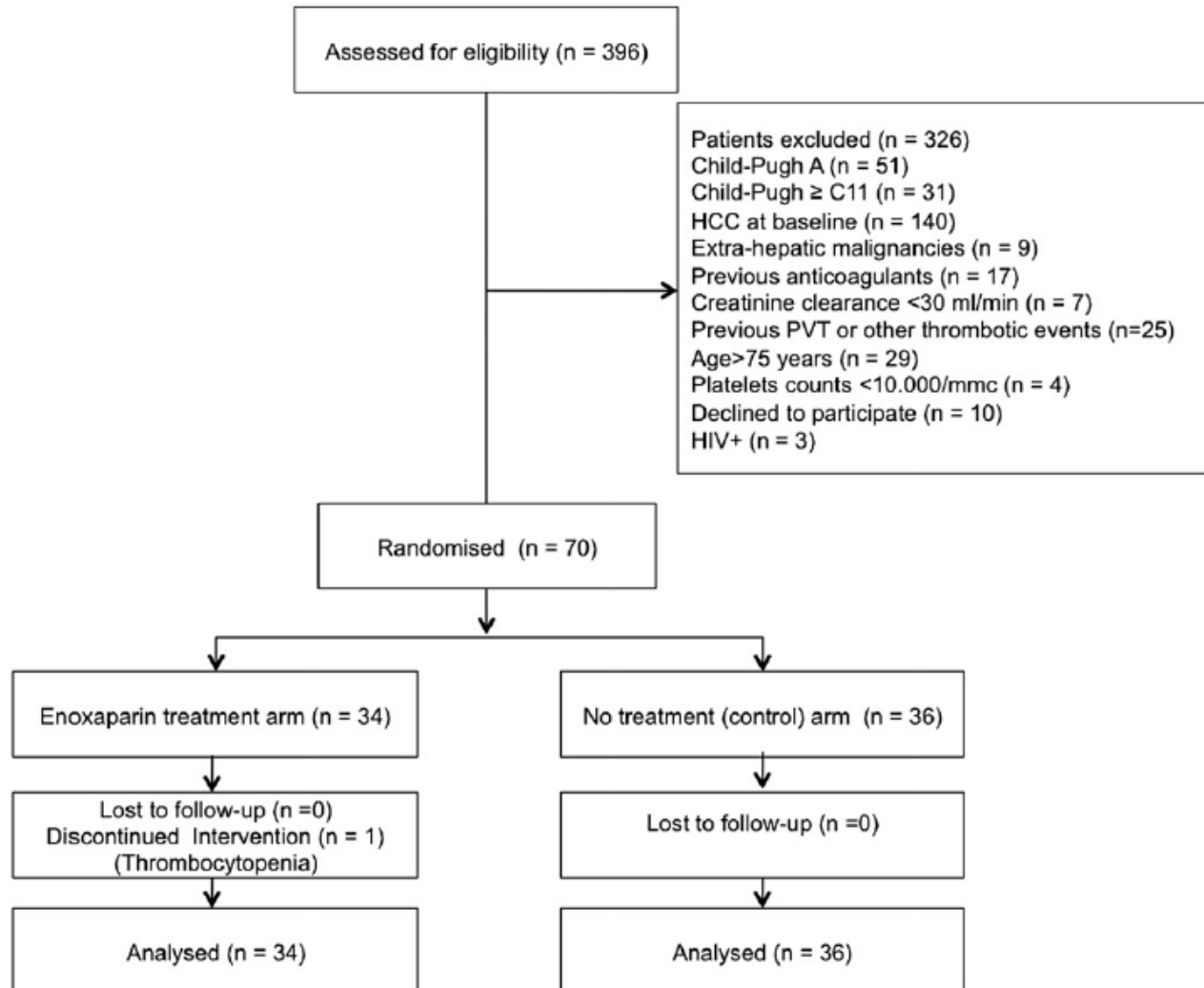
Table 2. Association of the Factor V Leiden mutation, prothrombin G20210A gene variant, ABO blood group type and presence of LS \geq 8.0 kPa.

	Total cohort (n = 1055)	LS <8.0 kPa (n = 954)	LS \geq 8.0 kPa (n = 101)	OR (95%CI)*	p value*
FVL mutation [†]	49 (4.6%)	41 (4.3%)	8 (7.9%)	2.00 (0.90-4.46)	0.09
Prothrombin G20210A gene variant [‡]	20 (1.9%)	16 (1.7%)	4 (4.0%)	2.04 (0.66-6.28)	0.2
FVL mutation or Prothrombin G20210A gene variant [‡]	68 (6.4%)	56 (5.9%)	12 (11.9%)	2.09 (1.07-4.07)	0.03
Blood group type non-O*	568 (55.0%)	513 (54.9%)	55 (55.6%)	0.92 (0.60-1.40)	0.7

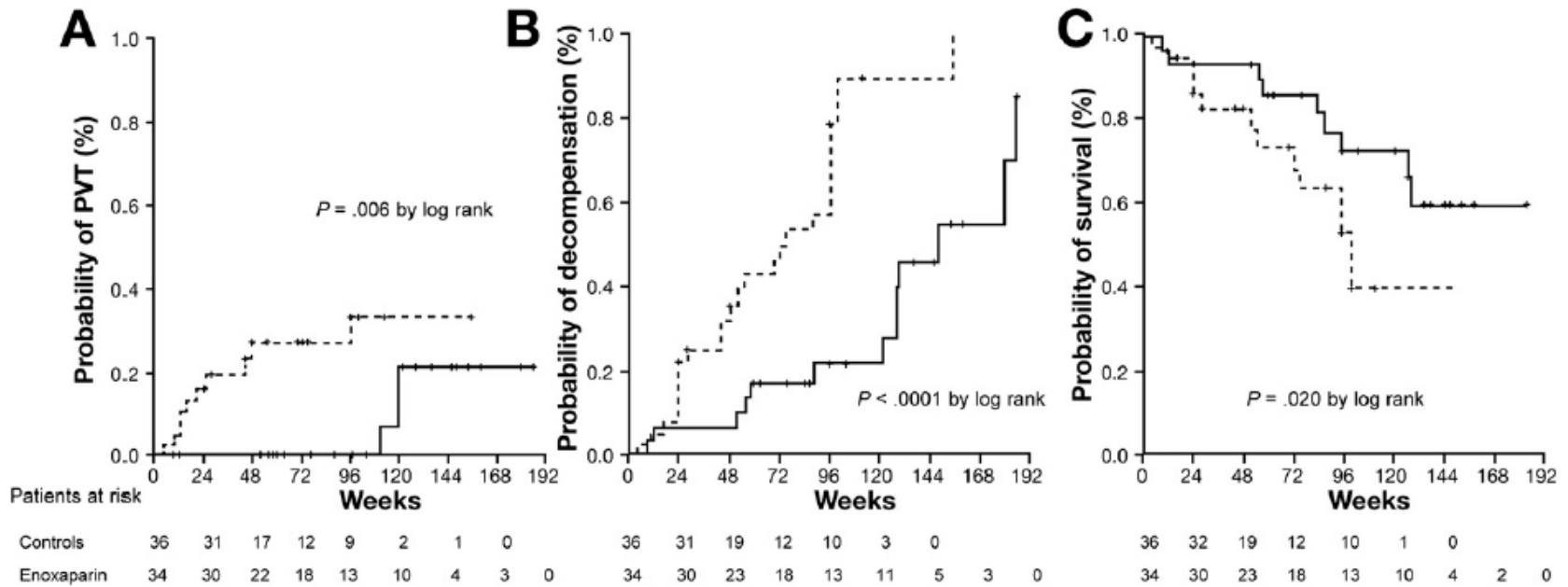
Clinical consequences of the etiological role of hemostasis in fibrogenesis

1. Questions the unrestricted use of plasma infusion to correct the conventional coagulation tests in patients undergoing invasive procedures
 1. Progression of liver disease
 2. Induce thrombosis
2. Prevention of fibrosis progression in post LTX Hep C
 - WAFT-C trial (London Imperial College)
 - Coumarin based anticoagulation post LTX
 - First year results were promising (2015)
 - Stellate cells activation on biopsy
3. Prevention of progression of liver disease

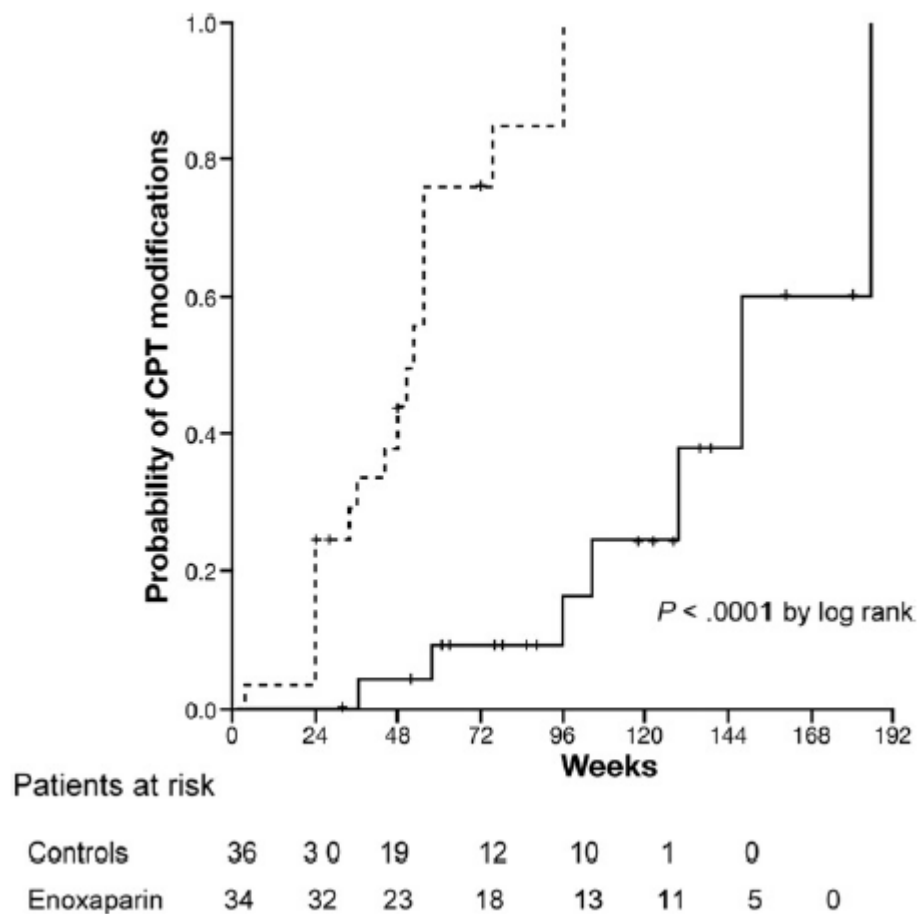
LMWH in liver disease



LMWH in liver disease



LMWH in liver disease



NOAC's and liver disease

Table 3 Summary of new oral anti-coagulants

Name	Dabigatran	Apixaban	Edoxaban	Rivaroxaban
Action	Direct thrombin inhibitor	Activated factor Xa inhibitor	Activated factor Xa inhibitor	Activated factor Xa inhibitor
Clearance	80% renal clearance	73% hepatic 27% renal clearance	50% hepatic 50% renal clearance	65% hepatic 35% renal clearance
CYP3A4 interaction?	No	Yes (minor)	Minimal	Yes
Absorption with food?	No effect	No effect	Up to 20% more	40% more therefore intake with food
Elimination half life	12-17 h	12 h	9-11 h	8-9 h young 11-13 h elderly

- Conventional coagulation tests in patients with liver disease
 - Are prognostic factors of survival
- Historical paradigm on hemostasis in liver disease are incorrect
 - Chronic liver disease in NO acquired bleeding disorder
 - Patients with cirrhosis are NOT auto-anticoagulated
 - Despite PT/INR prolongation DVT and LE
- There is an important pathophysiological role for thrombophilia in the development of fibrosis
 - New treatment options?

Question 1

1. Which statement is correct?

1. INR is a prognostic test in patient with liver disease
2. INR elevation is a marker for bleeding tendency in patients with liver disease
3. All of the above

