

2025 Coagulation

Permission to print: Yes

Category Coagulation

Severity Good Catch Near Miss

Duration of incident: minutes

Description: An elective CABG case that lasted 112 minutes where a sizeable clot in the venous reservoir was present after coming off bypass. Suckers were turned off before the test dose of protamine. The last ACT just 15 minutes before coming off bypass was 498 s. Patient's baseline ACT was 141 s, Post Heparin was 720 s, then subsequent ACTs done regularly were 564, 666, 628, 539 (Then 5000iu Heparin bolus given as warming had commenced having cooled to 34) final ACT 498 15 minutes prior to coming off bypass. Post protamine ACT 123 s. Recirculated post bypass as per normal practice and large clot remained in reservoir near venous outlet as per photo. Patient was stable and decannulation went smoothly. A primed back up pump always available in pump room. I was surprised that clot could form within such a short timeframe (noticed straight after coming off that there was significant clot in reservoir) with a final CPB ACT of 498 - but potentially the ACT dropped below therapeutic levels during the 15 minutes between ACT and coming off.

GOOD CATCH - what went well Suckers off before protamine is normal - no protamine should have been present and an ACT of 498 just before coming off bypass would usually be seen as adequate - however not all cases or patients are the same - notified the N +1 perfusionist in case the need to go back on occurred. Back up primed pumps are always available and a N + 1 was nearby to assist if required.

What could we do better I wouldn't normally recheck an ACT in that short time frame but food for thought.

Preventive actions This seemed unusual - but potentially I may keep ACT above 500s even if close to coming off? Although this would not be normal practice as 498 s would normally be deemed ok when you know you are coming off and it had only been 15 minutes.

Type of incident: Management

Timing of incident: PostCPB

Hospital incident filed No

Discussed with team: Yes

Knowledge issue No

Protocol issue No

Rule issue No

Skill issue No

Team Issue No

Management culture: No

Violation No

Patient outcome variance Nil

