

Letter to editor

Ahmed F. A. Farag

Emeritus Professor of General and Colorectal Surgery, Kasr Alainy Hospital, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian J Surgery 42:1156
© 2023 The Egyptian Journal of Surgery
1110-1121

Correspondence to Ahmed Farag Ahmed Farag, Emeritus Professor of General and Colorectal Surgery, Kasr Alainy Hospital, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt. Tel: +201001406432; e-mail: farag2a@gmail.com

Received: 30 August 2023

Revised: 30 August 2023

Accepted: 30 August 2023

Published: 7 December 2023

The Egyptian Journal of Surgery 2023,
42:1156

I read with great interest the editorial Titled ‘Critical Illness Associated Hemostatic Failure

Diagnostic revival of the Bleeding time test?’ by Dr. Ivan Rankovic. In fact I asked him to write this editorial in response to his highly experienced comment on my Post on the Linkdin concerning 2 of my patients who had a severe coagulopathy during and after surgery both underwent Laparoscopic D3 resection for Cancer left colon and cancer rectum within the last 3 years. Both patients had normal coagulation profile before surgery using platelet Count, PT, PC, INR and aPTT. And they had no reason for such coagulopathy during surgery. After excluding surgical causes they were both saved by Recombinant Factor VII injections. Thanks God both were rich to afford it about 1500 US dollars per injection and each needed only one injection and bleeding stopped within half an hour.

I was very shy when I asked him what he thinks about adding our old test ‘Bleeding Time’ to our panel of investigations before major surgery in response to his recommendation to do complete Platelet Function tests in those patients. I know that complete Platelet Function tests are not available and are expensive to do as a routine in our patients in Egypt. He was kind to tell me not to be Shy to ask this because he is using it as a routine screening in his ICU patients.

As a reminder Platelet function tests are laboratory tests that assess the ability of platelets to function properly. These tests help in diagnosing and monitoring various bleeding disorders and platelet-related conditions. Some common platelet function tests include besides the Bleeding time test: Platelet aggregation test, Platelet function analyzer (PFA-100) test, Platelet secretion assay. In the

USA, the cost of platelet function tests can range from around \$100 to several hundred dollars per test. However, these costs can be significantly higher if additional specialized tests or consultations are required.

In Fact the enhanced bleeding time can help discover defects in the intrinsic, extrinsic, and common platelet pathways. Bleeding time is a test that measures the time it takes for bleeding to stop after a small incision is made on the skin. It assesses the overall function of platelets and the coagulation system.

It is important to note that while enhanced bleeding time can provide clues about potential defects in these pathways, further diagnostic tests are usually required to confirm the specific underlying cause.

If I was shy to ask and if Dr. Ivan did not care to respond we would not have this very interesting and may be a game changing Editorial by reviving our old BT test which proved to be still Gold in preventing a difficult situation which I had in 2 of my patients with near death experience from Bleeding.

Acknowledgements

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.