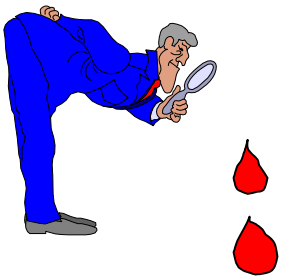

ANOTHER *BLOODY* NEWSLETTER!
FEBRUARY 2000

Welcome to second semester!

New Lab Tests:
1) We have received the V-BTA Test for transitional cell carcinoma, which is a rapid urine test for the detection of bladder tumor analytes in canine urine.
Price: $20.00.
Sample requirements: Urine collected without preservatives within 48 hours.
Discussion: The bladder tumor analytes detected by the V-BTA test have been isolated and characterized from the urine of some human bladder cancer patients. They contain high molecular weight glycoproteins, which appear to consist of complexes of basement membrane proteins and immunoglobulin. Bladder tumors have been shown to secrete proteolytic enzymes that degrade the basement membrane into fragments of its basic components e.g., Type IV collagen, fibronectin, laminin and proteoglycans. The loss of basil lamina proteins in the case of bladder cancer leads to the formation of detectable protein complexes in urine, which reflect the tumor's invasive process. These components are discharged into the urine where they combine to form basement membrane complexes. Basement membrane complexes have been detected and characterized in urine as a means to detect tumors in the bladder.
Abstract: This test is a qualitative, rapid, latex agglutination, dipstick test run on voided urine, which measures a glycoprotein antigen protein complex associated with bladder cancer in human patients. A 1-year prospective clinical trial was designed to assess the efficacy, sensitivity and specificity of the V- BTA test to diagnose transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) in dogs. The data indicated that the test had 90% sensitivity and 78% specificity in the detection of the bladder tumor-associated antigen in canine TCC.
2) FDPs:
We have a new test method for FDPs utilizing citrated plasma. A clean veni-puncture is crucial for accurate results. Traumatic sticks may markedly increase the FDP in healthy dogs. Baseline FDP concentrations in healthy dogs have been reported to be <5 ug/ml, but how much less is not known. Healthy dogs should have low levels of FDP, and a result of 5ug/ml may be significant though not necessarily indicative of DIC.

Suggestion Box use:
Valid suggestions should include a specific example of the problem, and be signed by the submitter. We want to assess our performance, and be able to directly respond to your concerns.

People in the news:
Congratulations to Linda Wingate, who has decided to pursue graduate studies. We are searching for a fulltime ASCP certified Medical Technologist to fill her "shoes."

References:
V-BTA Test Procedure, Bion Diagnostic Sciences, Inc., 1998
Effect on internal hemorrhage on fibrin(ogen) degradation products in canine blood, AJVR 47:1620-1621, 1986
Detection of Canine Transitional Cell Carcinoma Using A Bladder Tumor Antigen Urine Dipstick Test, Vet Clin Path, 28:33-38, 1999

Respectfully submitted by CH

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