

ANOTHER *BLOODY* NEWSLETTER!

February 2004

Star performance award:

Congratulations to Lynne Shanahan for receiving this month's VTH award. She has implemented new procedures and services in our lab and organized continuing education classes, while continuing her responsibilities as an outstanding medical technologist in the lab.



Coagulation:

We are evaluating a D-Dimer Assay kit for possible use in the future. Citrated plasma free from hemolysis is the specimen of choice. D-dimer containing portions are formed by Factor XIIIa cross-lined fibrin. Elevated levels of D-dimer are found in clinical conditions such as deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism (PE), and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). The kit is a latex agglutination procedure.

Clin Path hours: We recently have changed our coverage hours. They are:

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Weekdays
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Weekends
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Holidays

In order to allow for a dinner break for the weekday evening tech, the lab will be closed for 30 – 60 minutes. The tech will respond by beeper to emergencies requiring immediate attention.

Staffing changes: Kris Foster, who is our 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Medical Technologist is leaving at the end of January. She will be missed.

CE- Pancreatitis:

Trypsin-Like Immunoreactivity (TLI) assay: This test is sent to the GI Lab at Texas A&M University. Trypsinogen is synthesized exclusively by the exocrine pancreas and measurement of the serum concentration of this zymogen by species-specific radioimmunoassay of TLI provides a good idea of pancreatic function in the dog. This immune assay detects both trypsinogen and trypsin, hence the use of the term trypsin-like immunoreactivity to describe the total concentration of these two immunoreactive species. Serum TLI has been shown to be specific for exocrine pancreatic function in both dogs and cats. Serum TLI concentrations are significantly decreased in dogs and cats with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI). Dogs and cats with experimental pancreatitis have increased serum TLI concentrations. It is important to recognize TLI is most elevated early in the course of pancreatitis. While measurement of serum canine TLI is less sensitive than other diagnostic modalities available for diagnosis of pancreatitis in dogs, in the absence of azotemia an increased TLI is quite specific for pancreatic pathology. In addition, measurement of serum feline TLI is by far the most sensitive diagnostic test available for use in cats, and is clinically useful in the diagnosis of feline pancreatitis.

References:

Fisher Diagnostics, D-Dimer Assay, 2001.

Williams, D.A., What are the predictors and diagnostic biomarkers for pancreatitis in the dog and cat and how useful are they? ASVP/ASCVP Conference Proceedings 2003; 6-12.

Respectfully submitted by Cherie Heger, Clinical Pathology, MT (ASCP)

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