APTT Reagent  
(SP- UNICELIN)

**Intended Use**

Spectrum Diagnostics SP- UNICELIN reagent is intended for partial Thromboplastin (APTT) determination using ellagic acid, as an activator.

**Background**

The arrest of bleeding depends upon primary platelet plug formed along with the formation of a stable fibrin clot. Formation of this clot involves the sequential interaction of a series of plasma proteins in a highly organized and complex manner and also in the interaction of these complexes with blood platelets and materials released from the tissues. Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT) is prolonged with a deficiency of coagulation factors of the intrinsic pathway of the human coagulation mechanism such as factor XII, XI, IX, VIII, X, V, II, and Fibrinogen. Determination of APTT helps in estimating abnormality in most of the clotting factors of the intrinsic pathway and is also a sensitive procedure for generating heparin response curves for monitoring heparin therapy.

**Assay Principle**

Cephaloplastin activates the coagulation factors of the intrinsic pathway of the coagulation mechanism in the presence of calcium ions. APTT is prolonged by deficiency of one or more of these clotting factors of the intrinsic pathway and in the presence of coagulation inhibitors like heparin.

**Reagent**

SP-UNICELIN is a liquid ready-to-use activated cephaloplastin reagent for the determination of APTT. It is phospholipids preparation derived from rabbit brain with ellagic acid as an activator.

**Reagent Storage and Stability**

Store the reagent at 2 – 8 °C. Never freeze the reagent. The reagent is stable for 1 year at 2–8°C, 1 week at 18–25°C, 2 days at 37°C.

**Note**

1. Avoid exposure of the reagent to elevated temperature and contamination.
2. Immediately replace cap after use and store at recommended temperature.
3. Reagent contain 0.01 g/dL Thimerosal as a preservative. Avoid contact with skin and mucosa. On disposal, flush with plenty of water.

**Specimen Collection and Preparation**

No special preparation of the patient is required prior to sample collection. Withdraw blood without doing venous stasis and avoid haemolysis. The vein puncture must be a clean one and, if there is any difficulty, take a new syringe and needle and try another vein. Mix exactly nine parts of freshly collected blood with one part of trisodium citrate (0.11mol/L, 3.2 %). Centrifuge immediately for 15 minutes at 3000 rpm and transfer the plasma into a clean test tube. Plasma must be tested within 3 hours of blood collection.

**Pooled Plasma**

Prepare a fresh normal plasma pool (FNP) from at least five normal healthy donors and process as above. Plasma must be tested within 3 hours of blood collection.

**Additional regent**

0.025 mol/L calcium chloride (available from Spectrum Diagnostics upon request).

**Symbols in Product Labelling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Authorized Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>BD</td>
<td>For in-vitro diagnostic use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOT</td>
<td>Batch Code/Lot number</td>
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<td>CAT</td>
<td>Catalogue Number</td>
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<td>CN</td>
<td>Use by/Expiration Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB</td>
<td>CAUTION. Consult instructions for use</td>
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<td>MAN</td>
<td>Manufactured by</td>
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**Procedure**

1. Before use, the reagent should be mixed well by gentle swirling, do not shake.
2. Aspirate from the reagent vial enough reagent for the immediate test requirement in an extremely clean dry test tube. Bring this reagent to room temperature before prewarming at 37 °C for testing procedure. The calcium chloride solution should be brought to 37 °C before use.
3. To 12 x 75 mm test tube, add 0.1 ml test plasma and 0.1 ml SP- UNICELIN. Shake tube briefly to mix the reagent and plasma, place tube at 37 °C for 3 minutes.
4. Add forcibly 0.1 ml prewarmed calcium chloride and simultaneously start stop watch. Shake tube briefly to mix contents, keep at 37°C for 20 seconds.
5. Following 20 seconds incubation, remove the tube, gently tilt back and forth until a gel clot forms, stop the watch and record the time.
6. Repeat for a duplicate test using the same test plasma.
7. Find the average from the duplicate test values. This is the Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT of patient plasma).
8. Similarly repeat the steps 2-4 twice, and record values using FNP in place of test plasma (APTT of FNP).

**Calculation and reporting of results**

a) The result may be reported directly in terms of the mean of the double determination of the APTT of the test plasma

OR

b) as a ratio R as follows:

\[
R = \frac{\text{APTT of patient plasma (in seconds)}}{\text{APTT of FNP (in seconds)}}
\]

**Expected Values**

Normal values are between 22-34 seconds.

**Remarks**

1. Each laboratory must establish its own normal population range as well as normal and abnormal range.
2. Clotting time of patients on anticoagulant therapy depends upon the type and dosage of anticoagulant and also the time lag between the specimen collection and the dose.
3. Abnormalities of coagulation factor VII, factor XIII, and platelets are not detected by this method.
4. Platelet factor IV, a heparine-like activity can be released due to platelet aggregation or damage. In order to prevent this phenomenon in-vitro the specimen should be collected with a minimum of trauma.
5. Decrease in APTT time is observed in males under estrogen therapy and oral contraceptive administration in females.

**References**

## ORDERING INFORMATION

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