

Prothrombin Time (PT)

Measures the time to clot formation, indicating the activity of the extrinsic and common coagulation pathways and their involved clotting factors

Materials

1. ST4 semi-automated mechanical coagulation instrument (Diagnostics Stago, NJ)
2. 4-well cuvettes
3. Magnetic mixing ball
4. Citrated plasma samples
5. Thromboplastin reagent

Procedure

1. Instrument, cuvettes, mixing balls, and thromboplastin reagent are pre-warmed to 37°C
2. 30 μ L of citrated plasma samples, in duplicate, are incubated within cuvette wells at 37°C for 3 minutes
3. 60 μ L of thromboplastin reagent is added to each well to initiate clotting
4. Time until clot formation is measured in seconds