



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

BEYOND THE SLIDES 2015  
1<sup>st</sup> UDINE ECMO WORKSHOP



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# HIT in ECMO: a challenging complication

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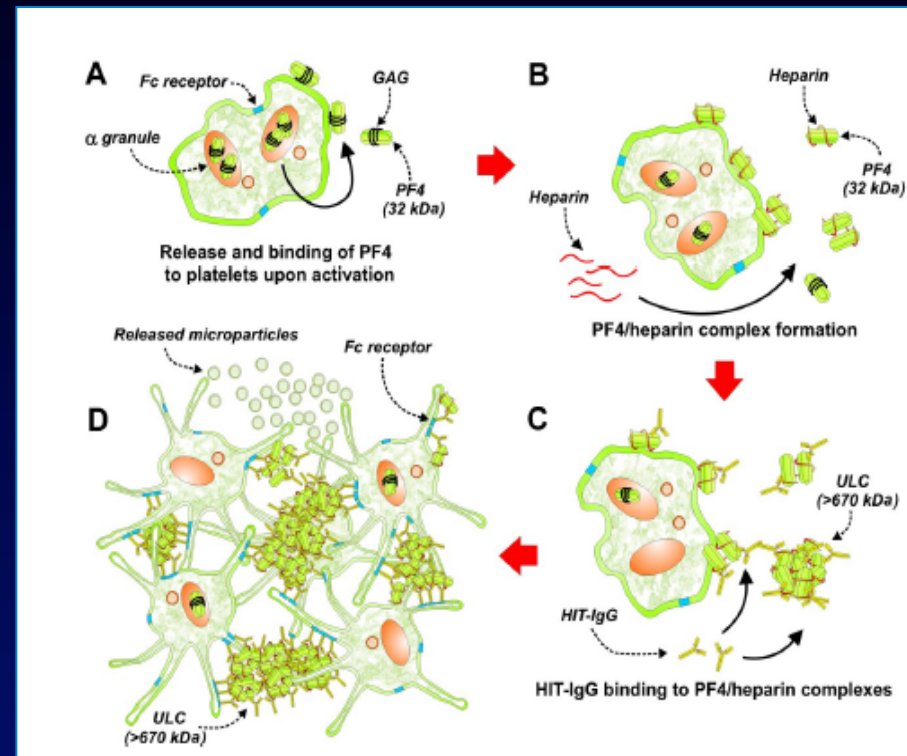


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# HIT-T DEFINITION

## Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia Type II

- Immunological origin (central role of Ig G immunoglobulin class)
- Life-threatening prothrombotic side effect: mortality reaches 45 % in case of arterial thrombosis (V4:A1)
- Drop in platelet between day 5-7 after the start of heparin
- Often no severe thrombocytopenia ( median platelet count nadir 60000/uL) (misleading, HIT underestimation )
- The striking dichotomy of a heparin induced platelet count decrease, but rise in the level of fibrinogen captures the essence of HIT: **heparin simultaneously promotes and treats the thrombosis**
- When immune system and coagulation concur to...  
**THROMBIN GENERATION**



# HIT in ECMO, why a challenging issue?

- Difficult **diagnosis** in postoperative cardiac surgery and ECMO patients
- Management of **alternative anticoagulants (DTI)** during **ECMO**
- Management of **anticoagulation during CPB** to convert ECMO to long-term **VAD** or to perform **heart transplantation**
- Treatment of **hemorrhagic complications** of alternative anticoagulants
- Anticoagulation in the **postoperative period**

# Diagnosis in postoperative cardiac surgery and ECMO patients

## ➤ Clinical evaluation

- **4T score:** confounders (consumption, IABP, CRRT) in CCH/ECMO
- Cannulae/catheters trigger thrombus independently of HIT

## ➤ PF4/heparin antibodies

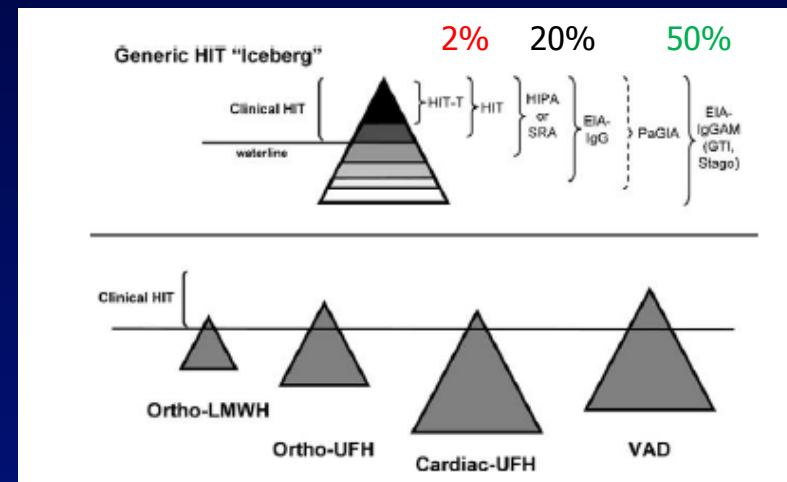
EIA (ELISA) GAM: high sensitivity/low specificity

- The **"iceberg model"**: Only in 10% of patients with HIT suspicion, a real HIT has been demonstrated!!

- **Functional assays:** Serotonin-release assay, HIPA test (higher specificity for biologically active HIT antibodies, BUT not widespread)

4T's	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
Thrombocytopenia	Platelet count fall > 50% and platelet nadir $\geq 20 \times 10^9/L$	Platelet count fall 30-50% or platelet nadir $10-19 \times 10^9/L$	Platelet count fall < 30% or platelet nadir $< 10 \times 10^9/L$
Timing of platelet count fall	Clear onset between days 5-14 or platelet fall $\leq 1$ day (prior heparin exposure within 30 days)	Consistent with days 5-14 fall, but not clear (e.g. missing platelet counts) or onset after day 14 or fall $\leq 1$ day (prior heparin exposure 30-100 days ago)	Platelet count fall $\leq 4$ days without recent exposure
Thrombosis or other sequelae	New thrombosis (confirmed); skin necrosis at heparin injection sites; anaphylactoid reaction after IV heparin bolus	Progressive or recurrent thrombosis; Non-necrotizing (erythematous) skin lesions; Suspected thrombosis (not confirmed)	None
Other causes of thrombocytopenia	None apparent	Possible	Definite

High probability: 6-8 points; intermediate probability: 4-5 points; low probability:  $\leq 3$  points.



# Alternative anticoagulants during ECMO

## Direct Thrombin Inhibitors

### Argatroban vs Bivalirudin

#### Advantages of DTIs:

- Ability to inhibit thrombin rapidly
- Simple monitoring with aPTT
- Short half-life (in case of bleeding or need for surgery)

#### Drawbacks:

- Drug accumulation in case of renal failure (bivalirudin), hepatic failure (argatroban)
- Difficult monitoring in some circumstances
- **No antidote!**

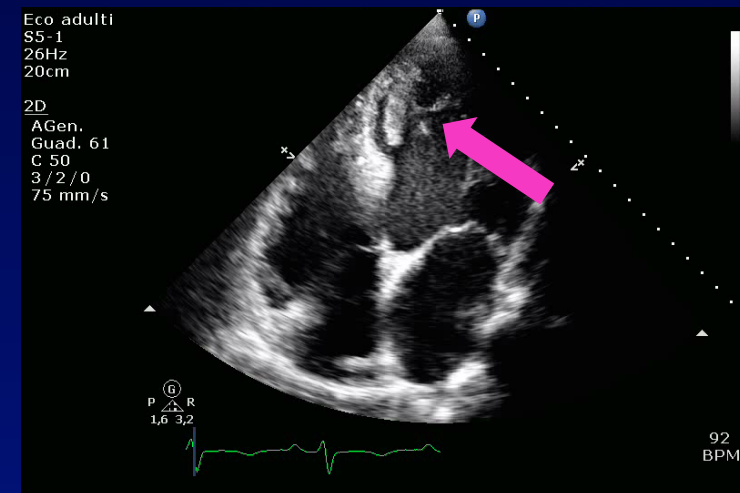
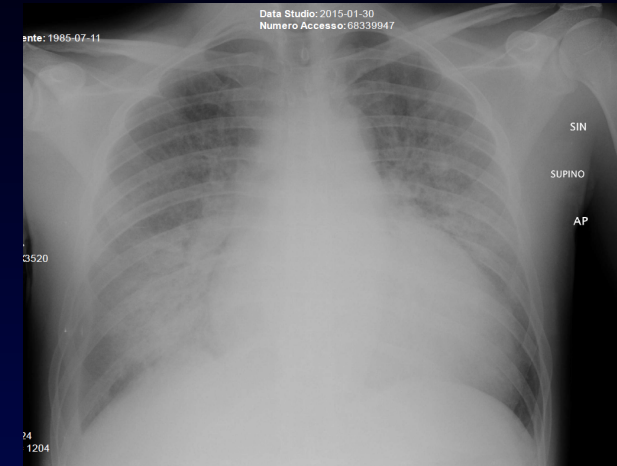
➤ **Heparin-coated ECMO** circuit with bivalirudin anticoagulation: if the immune reaction continues unabated is **still discussed**

# Case report

- ❖ A 29 yr old male was admitted suffering from congestive heart failure due to suspected post-influenza myocarditis

Medical history: Berger disease

- LVEF 15%, high wall thickness, restrictive LV filling pattern , PAPs 60 mmHg
- T 38°C, WBC 17000/uL, PCR 76 mg/dL, Hb 12,6 g/dL, Cr 2,65 mg/dL, Na+ 127 mMol/L, INR 2.05, ALT 580,
  - BNP 2253, cTnI 66, BP 160/115 mmHg
- Dobutamine, furosemide, azitromicin, ceftriaxone, oseltamivir, NPS
- ❖ 4 days after admission: **Two large apical thrombus in the left ventricle**. Continuous infusion of Unfractionated Heparin started
  - Heparin resistance



# Case report

## Refractory FV



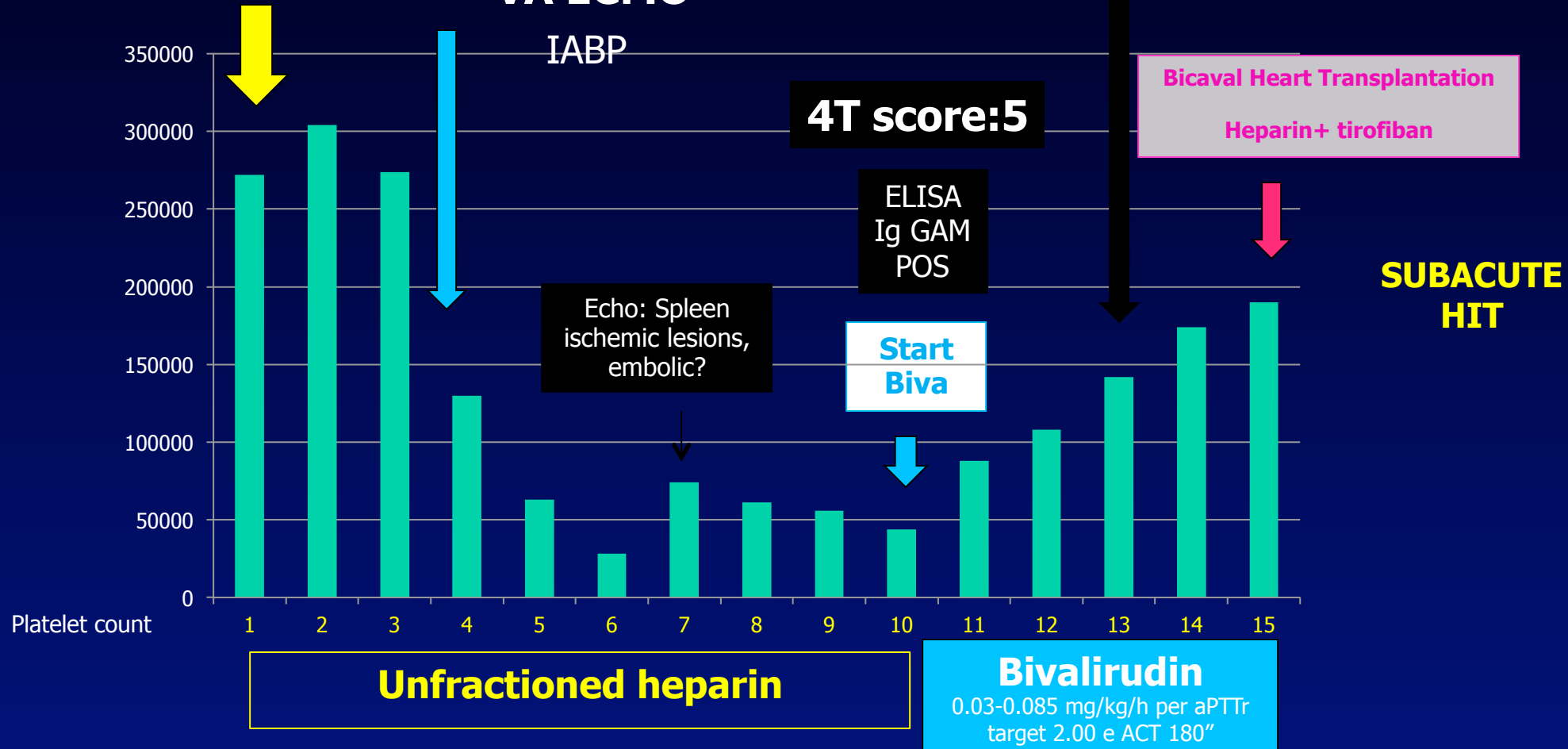
LV thrombus

Start UFH

VA ECMO

IABP

ELISA IgG OD 1,269



# Anticoagulation during CPB to safely shift ECMO to long-term VAD or heart transplantation

A comparison of bivalirudin and heparin for anticoagulation and reversal in patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass

The Journal of Intensive Care Medicine

Hemorragia masiva después de anticoagulación con bivalirudina en 2 casos de pacientes con trasplante cardiaco

M. Tauron<sup>a,\*</sup>, P. Paniagua<sup>b</sup>, C. Muñoz-Guijosa<sup>a</sup>, S. Mirabet<sup>c</sup> y J.M. Padró<sup>a</sup>

Primary Bypass in Acute Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Evolution-ON Trial

Cornelius M. Dyke, MD, Galen S. Wilentz, MD, Harry L. McCarthy, MD, Edwin Avery, MD, P. Paniagua, MD

Negative results - Cardiopulmonary bypass Argatroban as a substitute of heparin during cardiopulmonary bypass: a safe alternative?

Fabrizio Follis<sup>a,\*</sup>, Gianfranco Filippone<sup>a</sup>, Giuseppe Montalbano<sup>a</sup>, Maria Floriano<sup>b</sup>, Ettore LoBianco<sup>b</sup>, Giuseppe D'Ancona<sup>c</sup>, Marco Follis<sup>a</sup>

Life-threatening hemorrhage after cardiopulmonary bypass with bivalirudin

D. G. BIASUCCI, R. ZAMPARELLI, L. MARTINELLI, M. CORRADO, E. ANTONIUCCI, F. CAVALIERE

- Requires the use of a cell saver to avoid massive transfusion
- Cardiotomy should be minimized whenever possible replaced by cell saver (citrate)
- MUF after the end of CPB

Initial bivalirudin

Bivalirudin dosing and

Continue fixed

...expected separation from CPB, then: ...empty pump volume into cell saver\*\* (replacing with crystalloid, e.g., sodium ... need for post-separation bivalirudin boluses to circuit; process blood for reinfusion ... to remove bivalirudin; Or, Alternative approach used by author [AK]: After separation from CPB, ...empty reconnect arterial and venous lines, clamp out arterial filter, give residual blood to the patient, refill the CPB with saline, recirculate, add 50 mg bivalirudin, and thereafter start a continuous infusion at 50 mg/h into the circuit. Later, this volume may be processed by cell saver (for reinfusion) or discarded.

\*The minimum target bivalirudin concentration (~10 µg/ml) corresponds approximately to the minimum threshold levels (>2.5-times baseline) for the 4 different monitoring assays listed above. \*\*The Evolution-ON study protocol required the use of a cell saver.



# Anticoagulation during CPB to shift ECMO to long-term VAD or heart transplantation

## Brief report

### Management of anticoagulation in patients with subacute heparin-induced thrombocytopenia scheduled for heart transplantation

\*Sixten Selleng,<sup>1</sup> \*Assad Haneya,<sup>2</sup> Stephan Hirt,<sup>2</sup> Kathleen Selleng,<sup>1</sup> Christof Schmid,<sup>2</sup> and Andreas Greinacher<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut für Immunologie und Transfusionsmedizin, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Universität, Greifswald; and <sup>2</sup>Klinik und Poliklinik für Herz-, Thorax- und herznahe Gefäßchirurgie, Klinikum der Universität Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany

Anticoagulation management of patients with recent heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) requiring cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) surgery is a serious challenge, and especially difficult in patients requiring urgent heart transplantation. As nonheparin anticoagulants during CPB bear a high risk of major bleeding, these patients are at risk of being taken off the

transplant list. Short-term use of unfractionated heparin (UFH) for CPB, with restriction of UFH to the surgery itself, is safe and effective in patients with a history of HIT who test negative for antiplatelet factor 4 (PF4)heparin antibodies. We present evidence that it is safe to expand the concept of UFH reexposure to patients with subacute HIT (ie, those pa-

tients with recent HIT in whom the platelet count has recovered but in whom anti-PF4/heparin IgG antibodies remain detectable) requiring heart transplantation, if they test negative by a sensitive functional assay using washed platelets. This can be lifesaving in patients with end-stage heart failure. (Blood. 2008;112:4024-4027)

## Introduction

Management of patients with recent heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) requiring cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) surgery is a serious challenge for the consulting hematologist. In particular, the choice of adequate anticoagulation management during CPB is problematic. The situation is especially difficult in patients requiring heart transplantation, as the timing of surgery usually cannot be planned in advance, whereas the use of alternative anticoagulants during CPB requires special monitoring and preparation<sup>1,2</sup> and bears a significantly enhanced bleeding risk.<sup>3</sup> A major conceptual breakthrough was the recognition that use of unfractionated heparin (UFH) for CPB in patients with a history of HIT is safe and

## Results and discussion

### Case 1

A 55-year-old male patient with severe dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and cardiogenic shock was scheduled for high urgency heart transplantation. At day 9 of UFH treatment, HIT developed (platelet count fall from  $135 \times 10^9/L$  to  $28 \times 10^9/L$ ; anti-PF4/heparin IgG [optical density (OD) = 1.1] and positive HIPA; 4T score<sup>7</sup> = 5). After switch of anticoagulation to argatroban (aPTT 50-60 seconds) platelet counts recovered rapidly. When a donor

Subacute HIT

CPB with UFH

Functional assay using washed platelets:

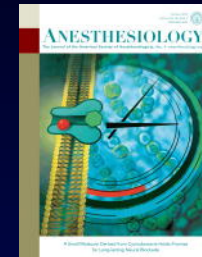
HIPA test  
NEGATIVE

# Anticoagulation during CPB to shift ECMO to long-term VAD or cardiac transplant

Subacute HIT and functional assays not available

## *Anticoagulation during Cardiopulmonary Bypass in Patients with Heparin-induced Thrombocytopenia Type II and Renal Impairment Using Heparin and the Platelet Glycoprotein IIb–IIIa Antagonist Tirofiban*

Andreas Koster, M.D.,\* Marian Kukucka, M.D.,\* Friedhelm Bach, M.D.,† Oliver Meyer, M.D.,‡  
Thomas Fischer, M.D.,\* Fritz Mertzlufft, M.D.,§ Matthias Loebe, M.D.,|| Roland Hetzer, M.D.,#  
Hermann Kuppe, M.D.\*\*



Anesthesiology, V 94, No 2, Feb 2001

### Protocol:

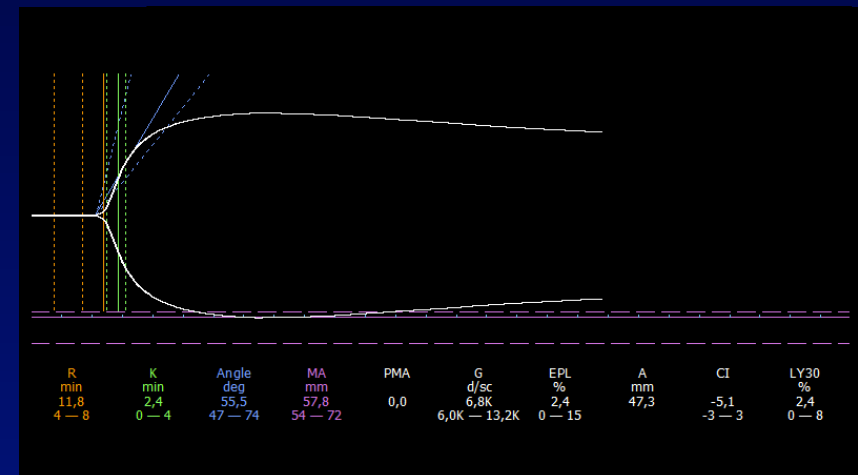
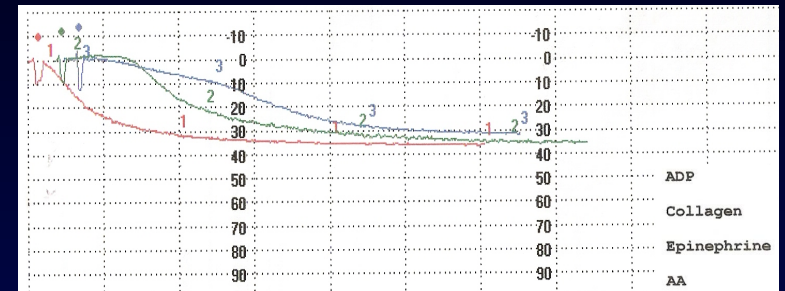
- Bolus of tirofiban 10µg/kg 10 minutes before cannulation
- Bolus of 400 UI/kg heparin 5 minutes after tirofiban bolus
- Tirofiban infusion 0.15 µg/kg/min until 1 hour before weaning from CPB
- Protamine administration, Platelet transfusion according to bleeding and platelet aggregometry

**Results:** Postoperative blood loss 110-520 mL, no reexploration, no clinical thrombosis or embolism, no D-dimer

# Case report

## Intraoperative coagulation management during ECMO removal and heart transplantation

- Preoperative bivalirudin infusion until 1 hour before skin incision
- Bolus of tirofiban 10 µg/kg 10 minutes before cannulation
- Bolus of heparin according to HMS (300 UI/kg), 15 minutes after tirofiban bolus
- Tirofiban infusion 0.15 µg/kg/min until 1 hour before weaning from CPB
- Ultrafiltration during CPB to clear bivalirudin
- ACT every 15 minutes
- Stop tirofiban 1 hour before CPB weaning
- Protamine administration after CPB weaning, according to HMS analysis
- 2 Platelet concentrates transfusion according to bleeding and platelet light transmission aggregometry
- Fibrinogen concentrate 1 g +2 RBC packages
- Postoperative bleeding 600 mL/24h
- Platelets after surgery
- Platelets in POD 1-4: 190000-180000/µL



# Case report

**POD 1-5:** fondaparinux 2,5-5 mg according to Creatinine Clearance (37-51 ml/min)

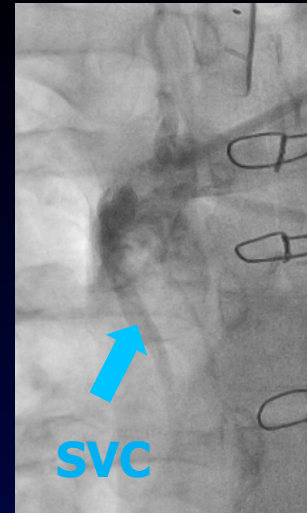
**POD 6:** Cardiac tamponade. Reexploration

**POD 7:** fondaparinux re-start

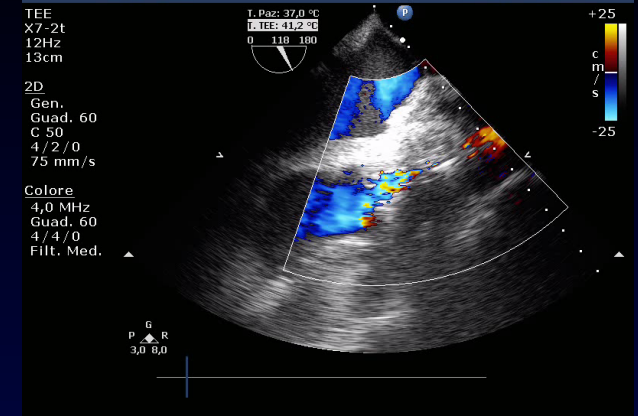
**POD 11:** Superior caval syndrome: face and neck edema; PLT 226000/uL

SVC thrombosis

Bivalirudin 0.03-0.1 mg/kg/h, target aPTTr 2.5



**Phlebography**

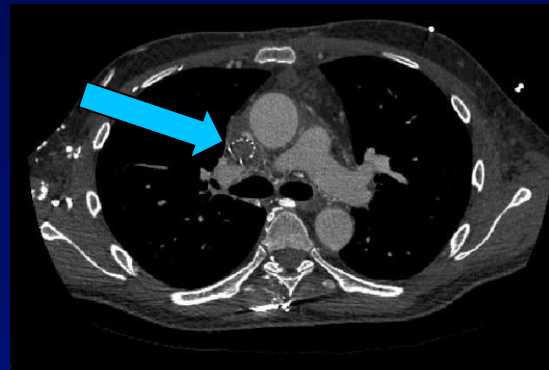


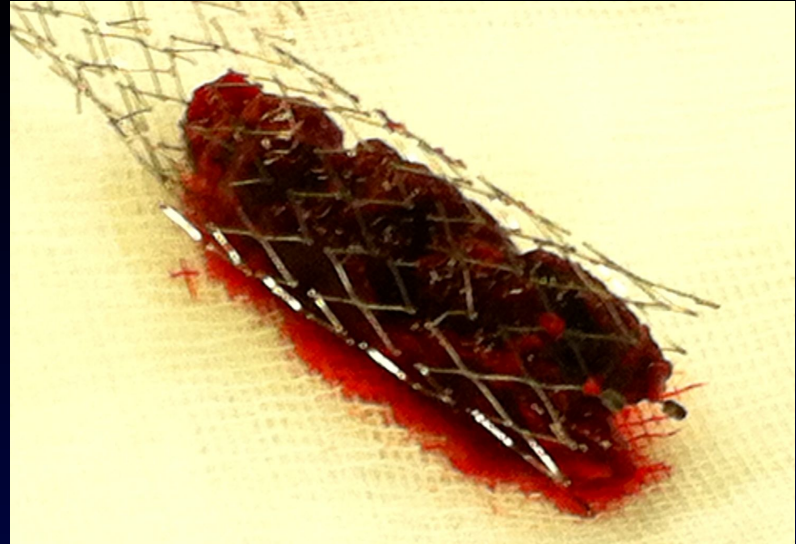
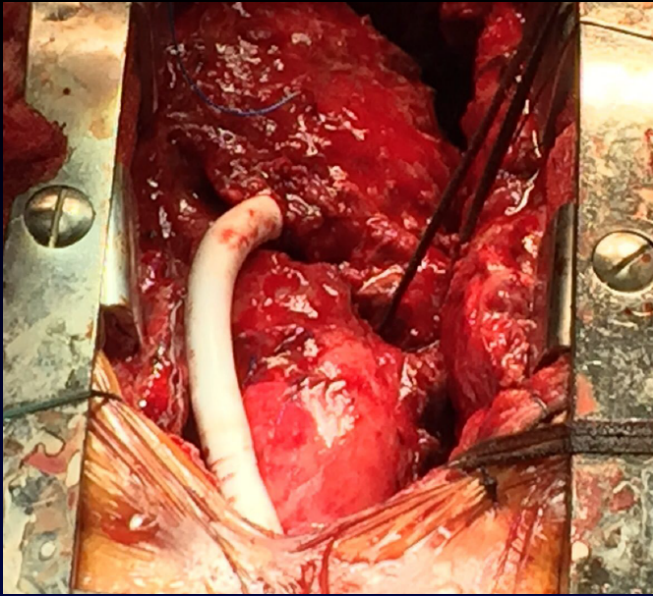
**TEE  
Bicaaval view**

**POD 14:** Stent SVC, bivalirudin and VKA

**POD 27:** stenosis intrastent, Ab antiPF4/heparin positive

Normal Platelet count





### **POD 33:**

Stent removal, thrombectomy of SVC and enlargement by means of a plasty with Hemopatch

Temporary bypass between left innominate vein and right atrium with Goretex prosthesis

No CPB

Bivalirudin 1.75 mg/kg/h, ACT target 300"

3 RBC packages

# Anticoagulation in the **postoperative period**

➤ Discontinue heparin and anticoagulate with warfarin can worsen clinical picture and thrombosis (severe reduction in the natural anticoagulant protein C)

➤ Postpone warfarin therapy until there has been substantial resolution of the thrombocytopenia (platelet count rise at least a stable level of 150000/uL)

➤ Maintain a at least 5 days DTI/warfarin overlap

➤ Maintain anticoagulant therapy (VKA) for at least 3 months (recommended duration of anticoagulation in VTE) in HIT-T

➤ Maintain anticoagulation for at least 4 weeks in HIT without thrombosis (high risk of thrombosis extends for 2 to 4 weeks after the treatment of HIT is initiated)

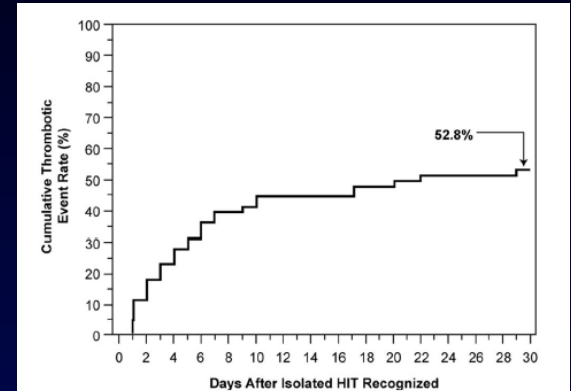


Figure 7. Cumulative frequency of thrombosis in HIT patients presenting with isolated thrombocytopenia. Approximately 50% of HIT patients initially recognized with isolated thrombocytopenia developed objective evidence for thrombosis during the subsequent 30-day period. Reprinted from Warkentin and Kelton<sup>88</sup> with permission.

**Probability of thrombosis  
in case  
of presence of PF4-heparin antibodies  
and thrombocytopenia**

## Case report

### Postoperative period:

- VKA, Bivalirudin, ASA
- VKA+ DAPT (ASA, Clopidogrel) after bivalirudin stop
- VKA for 3 months from last heparin exposure. D-dimers monitoring (DVT)
- Ab anti PF4/heparin negative after 50 days from heparin stop
- 12 months of DAPT
- Discharged on 76 days after admission



# Conclusions

- ❖ HIT is an insidious and potentially deadly complication
  - ❖ Multidisciplinary management (CPB, etc)
    - ❖ Risk of underestimate, but also...
    - ❖ Risk of overdiagnosis (discuss with lab staff)
- ❖ Don't underestimate the risk of thrombosis in postoperative period (pro-thrombotic period *per se*) especially until antibodies become negative