

COMPARISON OF TWO QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR DETERMINATION OF DABIGATRAN CONCENTRATION: DILUTED THROMBIN TIME TEST AND INNOVANCE DABIGATRAN TEST IN REAL LIFE PATIENTS TREATED WITH DABIGATRAN

S Šupraha Goreta¹, S Margetić², I Čelap², R Mihić²

¹Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb, Croatia

²Department of Clinical Chemistry, Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Zagreb, Croatia

INTRODUCTION

Clinical application of dabigatran does not require routine therapeutic monitoring. However, there are special clinical situations in which measurement of dabigatran concentration in circulation should be performed using specific quantitative methods.

AIM

The aim of this study was to compare two quantitative methods for dabigatran concentration i.e. commercial chromogenic Innovance Dabigatran assay (DTI) and in house optimized coagulometric diluted thrombin time (dTT) test.

METHODS

Dabigatran concentrations were determined in 38 patients using two methods on BCSXP coagulation analyzer (Siemens Healthineers, Germany): Innovance Dabigatran assay (Siemens Healthineers, Germany) with drug specific calibrators (Siemens Healthineers, Germany) and dTT test as an in house applied protocol with thrombin time reagent (BC Thrombin, Siemens Healthineers, Germany) calibrated with commercial dabigatran calibrators (Diagnostics Stago, France). Passing-Bablok regression and Bland-Altman methods were used for regression comparison and Wilcoxon test was used to test differences between pairs of samples. The study was funded by the Croatian Science Foundation as part of the research project IP-2016-06-8208.

RESULTS

Table 1. Results of dabigatran concentrations measured with two methods in real life patients treated with dabigatran (n=38).

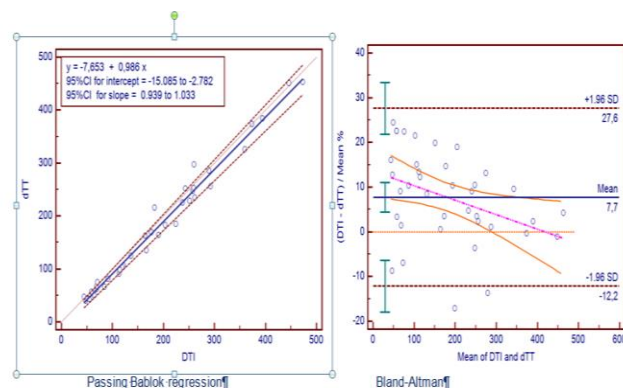
Method	Dabigatran concentration (ng/mL) Median (95%CI) Interquartile range (IQR)
Diluted thrombin time test (dTT)	163.5 (94.5 – 227.5) 68 - 252
Innovance dabigatran test (DTI)	171.0 (113.5 – 240.0) 70 - 259
P	0.0002

Comparison of the results for dabigatran concentrations using DTI and dTT assays showed statistically significant difference (P=0.0002), but without clinically significant difference.

CONCLUSIONS

Although two evaluated methods for quantitative determination of dabigatran concentration showed significant constant difference, that difference is not clinically significant, so both can be used interchangeably. However, commercial DTI assay could be recommended as a method of choice for quantitative measurement of dabigatran concentration, since it has much wider measurement range without sample dilution (up to 500 ng/mL) compared to dTT assay (up to 256 ng/mL), uses chromogenic principle of measurement and time of testing is much shorter.

Figure 1. Passing and Bablok regression analysis revealed constant difference between two methods. Bland-Altman analysis showed statistically significant mean difference of 7.7% (P<0.001) between dTT assay compared with DTI.



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CONTACT INFORMATION sandra.suprahagoreta@gmail.com
margeticsandra@gmail.com