IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW METHODOLOGY
August 5, 2010

D-DIMER LATEX ENHANCED TURBIDIMETRIC IMMUNOAASSAY

Beginning in August Lakeland Laboratory will implement the new Latex Enhanced Turbidimetric Immunoassay for the measurement of D-Dimer. This assay has been approved by the FDA for the exclusion of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). The new assay has several improvements over the current methodology including a rapid turnaround time, improved specificity, and reduced interference from hemoglobin, lipids and rheumatoid factor.

When combined with a scoring method using a clinical assessment model such as a Wells Score or a Geneva Score to determine pretest probability of DVT or PE, D-Dimer has the ability to reliably exclude the diagnosis of DVT or PE thereby eliminating the need for additional non-invasive testing.

IMPORTANT CHANGES: CUT-OFF LEVEL and UNITS for this new assay HAVE CHANGED to 230 ng/ml for the evaluation of D-Dimer results.

INTERPRETATION:

< 230 ng/ml DVT and PE can be ruled out unless there is a very high pretest probability that the patient is likely to have a DVT or PE.

>230 ng/ml DVT or PE cannot be ruled out. Elevated levels of D-Dimer can be found in DIC, pregnancy, old age, peripheral arteriopathy, coronary disease, thrombolytic treatment, cancer, liver disease, infection, inflammation, and hematoma.

TEST CODE: DDMRQ

This assay is available at both the Niles and St. Joseph Laboratories on a STAT basis. Turn around time is approximately 30 minutes.

Contact Marc VanLake, Hematology Technical Specialist at 982-4312 or Roger Gregorski, Laboratory Technical Manager at 982-4303 with any questions.