

Sound-Alike Tests Coagulation Can Be Confusing

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Coagulation factors are involved in a variety of physiologic, and sometimes pathologic processes, including bleeding, thrombosis and even inflammation. As a result, a single coagulation factor may be of interest in the assessment of different (and sometimes diametrically opposed) pathologic states. This can be a source of confusion, particularly when a coagulation factor is included in the name of two different tests (e.g. factor V assay and factor V genotyping). Choosing the correct test is important; not only to reach the correct diagnosis, but to ensure that the patient's blood is properly collected. Once the sample has been drawn in the wrong tube, it is not possible to redirect it to the correct laboratory.

Below is a table that delineates sound-alike tests and their conventional medical uses. Also keep in mind that clearly writing out the full name of the test you require will help avoid confusion for the phlebotomist and laboratory.

Tests	Factor V Assay	Factor V & Genotyping	Factor II Assay	Prothrombin & Genotyping	Factor X Assay	Anti-Xa Assay
Testing Method	Clot-based	Molecular	Clot-based	Molecular	Clot-based	Chromogenic
Indication	Bleeding	Thrombosis	Bleeding	Thrombosis	Bleeding	Anticoagulant Therapy

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

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Submitted by: Marc Smith, M.D., Medical Director of Coagulation and Clinical Faculty
David Grossman, M.D., Chief, Laboratory Services, Beaumont Troy
Vaishali Pansare, M.D., Chief, Laboratory Services, Beaumont Grosse Pointe
Gil Herman, M.D., PhD, Chief, Laboratory Services, Beaumont Farmington Hills

Beaumont Laboratory
Customer Service
1-800-551-0488

28050 Grand River Ave.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

468 Cadieux Road
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

3601 West 13 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

44201 Dequindre Road
Troy, MI 48085

www.beaumontlaboratory.com