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Commissioned Review Article for Special Issue

Using the laboratory to predict thrombosis in dogs: An achievable goal?

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Highlights

- Thrombosis causes significant mortality; but anti-coagulants can cause bleeding.
- Laboratory tests that identify thrombotic-risk would allow personalized therapy.
- D-dimers, aPTT, thromboelastography and microparticles may predict risk in humans.
- Canine risk prediction models will require careful development and validation.

Abstract

Thrombosis is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in humans and dogs; however anti-thrombotic drugs carry a risk of bleeding and increase the cost of patient care. The ability to identify individuals at high risk of thrombosis would allow targeting of anti-coagulant therapy at those most likely to derive a net benefit. Significant advances have been made towards predicting thrombotic risk in humans using laboratory tests individually and as part of risk prediction models. Assays which have shown potential in humans include D-dimers, activated partial thromboplastin time and viscoelastic testing, all of which are available to veterinarians.

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