

ANTITHROMBIN ACTIVITY (AT) (ATIII)

Description	The Liquid Antithrombin kit is an assay based on a synthetic chromogenic substrate and on FXa inactivation. ^{10,11} As a consequence, the method is specific and not influenced by Heparin Cofactor II. Antithrombin (AT) is the major inhibitor of blood coagulation and is essential for effective heparin therapy. By inhibiting the coagulation proteases, especially thrombin, FXa and FIXa, AT prevents uncontrolled coagulation and thrombosis.
Indication	Antithrombin deficiency is associated with a high risk of thromboembolic disorders.
Additional Info	Antithrombin is a serpin (serine protease inhibitor) and is thus similar in structure to most other plasma protease inhibitors, such as alpha 1-antichymotrypsin, alpha 2-antiplasmin and Heparin cofactor II. The Liquid Antithrombin kit is an assay based on a synthetic chromogenic substrate and on FXa inactivation. ^{10,11} As a consequence, the method is specific and not influenced by Heparin Cofactor II.
Concurrent Tests	Usually performed as part of the THROMBOPHILIA SCREEN. The test maybe appropriate in pregnant women with known AT deficiency to moniator treatment
Interpretation	Liquid Antithrombin can be used to exclude or diagnose hereditary deficiency in patients with a tendency toward thromboembolism, in pre-operative stages, before prescription of oral contraceptives, DIC6, nephrotic syndromes, liver diseases and in therapy with heparin or antithrombin concentrates.
Collection Conditions	AVOID TESTING AFTER AN NEW EPISODE OF THROMBOSIS - AS THIS CAN RESULT IN FALSE RESULTS. Samples must be correctly filled as the ratio of anticoagulant to blood is crucial for accurate test results. Samples will be rejected by the laboratory if they are under or over filled. Samples should arrive in the laboratory within 4 hours of blood draw.
Frequency Of Testing	Abnormal results should be repeated in 6-12 weeks.
Clinical AdviceContact	Haematology Registrar