


THE FRITSMA FACTOR
Your Interactive Hemostasis Resource

Aspirin: The 1899 Wonder Drug



Monitoring Aspirin's Antiplatelet Property
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The Fritsma Factor, Your Interactive Hemostasis Resource
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Aspirin Therapy; The Participant...

- Diagrams the biochemical pathways of aspirin's anti-platelet and anti-inflammatory effects.
- Employs aspirin to reduce risk of cardiovascular disease.
- Reviews effect of aspirin on platelet activation in inflammatory disease, cancer, and depression.
- Orders aspirin assays for compliance, efficacy, and dosage.

Please Silence Your Phone




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Felix Hoffman; 1897

- "Willow-bark Salix" appears in 1534 BC Egyptian papyri
- 1800s: Spirea (Meadowsweet) leaves
- 8/10/1897: Felix Hoffman synthesized pure, stable acetyl salicylic acid at Bayer Labs in Leverkusen, Germany
 - Aspirin: a = acetyl; spir = Spirea
- 1899: Bayer lab mixes ASA with starch: made the first tablet
- No scrip: 5 grains (~325 mg), WHO essential medicine list
- 2017: 40,000 tons of aspirin produced, 50,000,000 people
- Uruguayan stamp shows Hoffman, a willow branch, and his signature from the Bayer lab record.



Mann CC, Plummer ML. The Aspirin Wars: Money, Medicine, and 100 Years of Rampant Competition. New York: Knopf 1991.

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BAYER PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Send for samples and Literature to:

EL CORREO

ST. JOSEPH

ASPIRINA


Bayer

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Dr. Lawrence Craven: 1948

- California GP documented 400 men on aspirin had no MIs from 1948–50.
 - Recorded Aspergum related to post-T&A bleeding
 - Recommended an aspirin a day to reduce risk of heart attacks, was largely ignored
 - Extended studies to 8000 men
 - Died of a heart attack at age 74
- 1971: JB Smith demonstrated aspirin's inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis



Craven LL. Acetylsalicylic acid, possible preventive of coronary thrombosis. Ann Western Med 1950;4: 95–9.

Vane JN. Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis as a mechanism of action for aspirin-like drugs. Nat New Biol 1971;231:232–5.

Smith JB, Willis AL. Aspirin selectively inhibits prostaglandin production in human platelets. Nature 1971; 231: 235–7.

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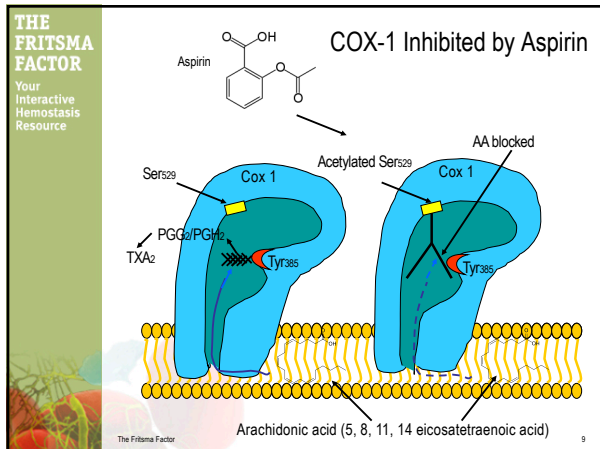
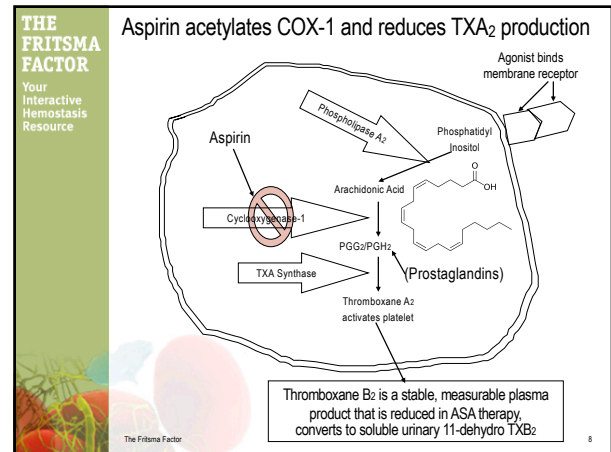
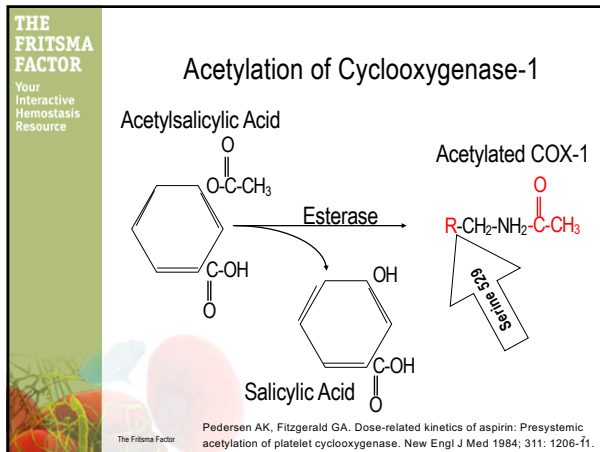
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Cyclooxygenase-1 Irreversible Acetylation

- Platelet membrane COX-1 acetylated at ser₅₂₉
 - Blocks arachidonic acid's access to reactive "tunnel"
 - Active site amino acid tyr₃₈₅ unaffected but blocked
- Platelet loses COX-1 activation pathway
 - AKA *eicosanoid synthesis* pathway or *prostaglandin* pathway
 - Total function recovery ~10%/day as new platelets are produced
- Adhesion and shear-induced aggregation remain

Vane JR, Botting RM. Mechanism of action of aspirin-like drugs. Semin Arthr Rheum 1997; 25 Suppl 1: 2-10.

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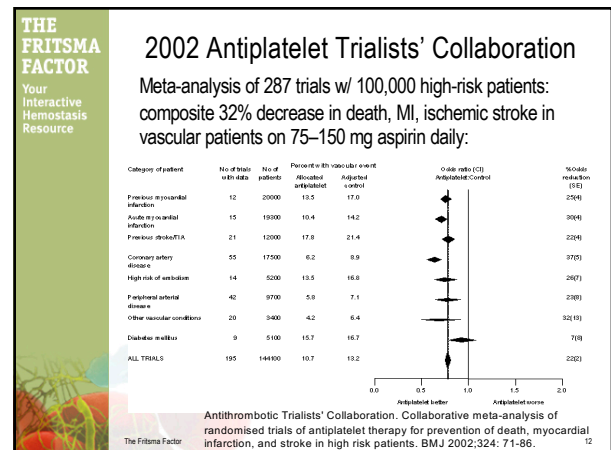
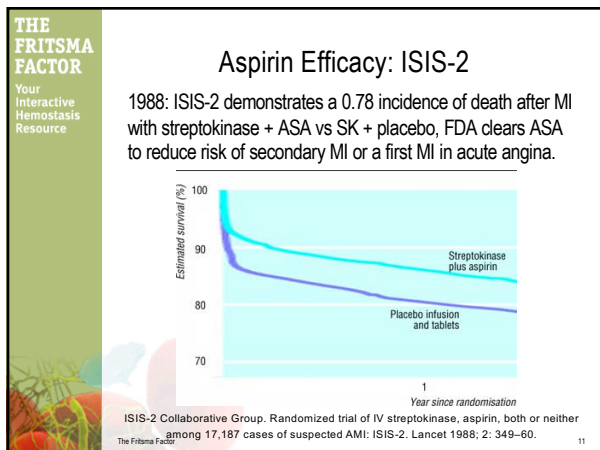
Aspirin Pharmacology

- 50% absorbed from stomach, duodenum
- Peak plasma levels at 15 minutes
- Hydrolyzed by esterase in gut, liver and RBCs
- Acetyl group hydrolyzed in 20–30 m, leave salicylic acid (salicylate)
 - Platelet COX-1 acetylation occurs in the pre-systemic (portal) circulation of gut and liver
- Reduces plasma TXB₂ beginning within 5 minutes
 - Max reduction in 30 m

Salicylic Acid

O=C(O)c1ccccc1O

Acetylsalicylic Acid (aspirin)

CC(=O)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O


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Aspirin Dosage per Indication

- 75 mg (or baby aspirin—81 mg)
 - Primary and 2° MI and peripheral artery disease prevention, stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation, 2° prevention of TIA and stroke
 - Prevent pre-eclampsia, support fetal retention in primary antiphospholipid syndrome (with low MW heparin)
- 300 mg (or adult—325 mg) subsequent to:
 - MI, acute unstable angina, acute TIA, acute ischemic stroke

Navaratnam K, Alfirevic A, Alfirevic Z. Low dose aspirin and pregnancy: how important is aspirin resistance? BJOG 2016; 123: 1481–7.

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Aspirin in Primary Prevention

- Physician's Health Study 1982–96 (♂ only)
 - 1086 healthy ♂ physicians, 40–84
 - 325 mg aspirin on alternate days versus placebo
 - 44% reduction of fatal or nonfatal first MIs
 - Ethical termination at 60 months, 1987
 - ASA cleared in 1988 to prevent TIAs and strokes in healthy ♂s >50
- Women's Health Study 1991–2000 (♀ only)
 - 39,876 healthy health care ♀s over 45
 - 100 mg aspirin on alternate days versus placebo
 - 25% reduction in fatal or non-fatal first MIs
 - But 50% reduction in smokers, hypertensives, those with high cholesterol, greatest effect >65

Physician's health study: aspirin and primary prevention of coronary heart disease. N Engl J Med 1989; 321:129–35, 183–5.

Gaziano JM, Skerrett PJ, Buring JE. Aspirin in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease. Haemostasis 2000; 30:1–135.

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2018: Weight-based ASA Dosages Affect Odds Ratio of Primary CAD

Mass	ASA mg/d	Primary CAD OR	Comment
50–69 kg	75–100	0.75 (P= .007)	>100 mg ASA raises CAD risk.
>70 kg	75–100	0.95 (non-sig)	75–100 mg raises CAD risk to 1.33 (P= .0082)!
	>325	↓ (P= .017)	OR not provided

Height data match weight, findings similar in men and women
Worldwide, 80% of men and 50% of women are >70 kg
In >70 YO, ASA raised 3Y cancer risk by OR 1.2 (P= .02)

Rothwell PM, Cook NR, Gaziano JM, et al. Effects of aspirin on risks of vascular events and cancer according to bodyweight and dose: analysis of individual patient data from randomised trials. Lancet 2018;392:387–99.

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9/22/18: ASA Offers No Protection

- Measured vascular events: CAD, PAD, ischemic stroke
- Questionable protection for those with thrombotic risk factors
- No protection for those without cardiac indications
- Bleeding risk outweighs protection

Gaziano JM, Brotons C, Coppolecchia R, et al. Use of aspirin to reduce risk of initial vascular events in patients at moderate risk of cardiovascular disease (ARRIVE): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Lancet 2018;22:392:1036–104.

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ASCEND, ARRIVE, and ASPREE Trials

- NEJM 9/16/18: 20,000 >70 in US & Australia
- Primary outcome composite of death, dementia, and disability—no effect
- ASA actually worse in...
 - All-cause mortality
 - Cancer-related death

Why?

- Modern CAD outcomes negate ASA value?
- CAD redefined?

McNeill JJ, Woods RL, Nelson MR, et al. Effect of aspirin on disability-free survival in the healthy elderly. N Engl J Med 2018;379:1499–1508.

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The Remarkable Story of a Wonder Drug, Which Now Comes to an End in the Primary Prevention Setting: Say Bye-bye to Aspirin!

NOTE: Weights are from random effects analysis

ASA is associated with better outcome ASA is associated with worse outcome


Mahmoud AN, et al. Efficacy and safety of aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular events: a meta-analysis and trial sequential analysis of randomised controlled trials European Heart Journal 2019;40, 607–17.

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What is Lacking in Aspirin Studies?

Labs! Why?



- No national guideline for aspirin lab assay
- Lab assays are surrogates for outcomes
- VerifyNow and PFA-100 results not reproducible
- Lab assay platform results differ among patients
- But what if you dosed on lab results?


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Aspirin Monitoring

- Aspirin resistance
 - Laboratory phenomenon: suboptimal platelet function suppression
- Aspirin failure
 - Secondary stroke, MI, PAD while on aspirin therapy
 - Adverse thrombotic events such as fetal loss in antiphospholipid syndrome despite aspirin therapy

How to monitor aspirin?

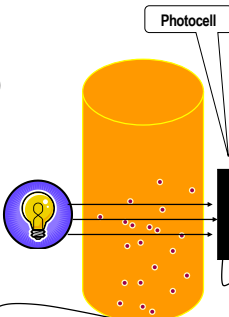


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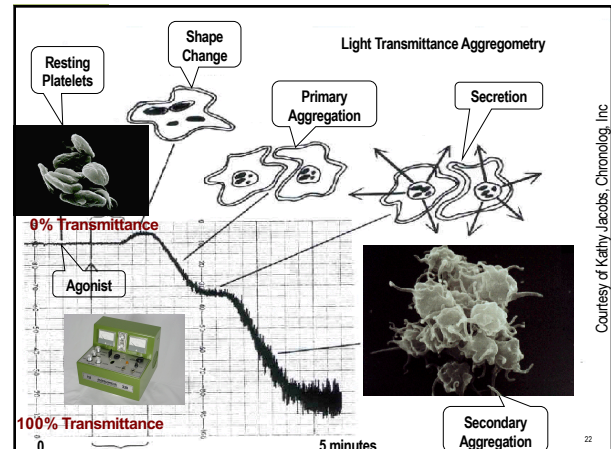
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Light Transmittance Aggregometry (LTA) Specimen Preparation

- Collect 9–12 mL whole blood
 - 3–4 2.7 mL tubes + 0.3 citrate
- Centrifuge at 50×g 30" (PRP)
- Wait 30 m for "platelet shock"
- Dispense to cuvette
- Test within 4 hours
- Pipette agonist, record absorbance by photometry
- Attempt to record secretion by analyzing "lag phase"




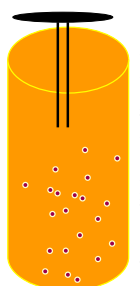
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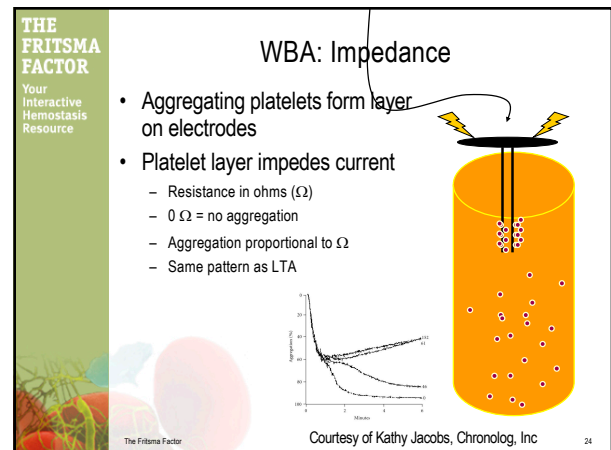
Impedance-based Whole Blood Aggregometry (WBA)

- Collect 9 mL blood, do not centrifuge
 - 3 tubes each 2.7 mL + 0.3 citrate
- Aliquot, dilute 1:1 with saline
- Pipette agonist, timer starts
- Electrodes lowered into suspension

Courtesy of Kathy Jacobs, Chronolog, Inc.

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Aspirin Efficacy Agonists

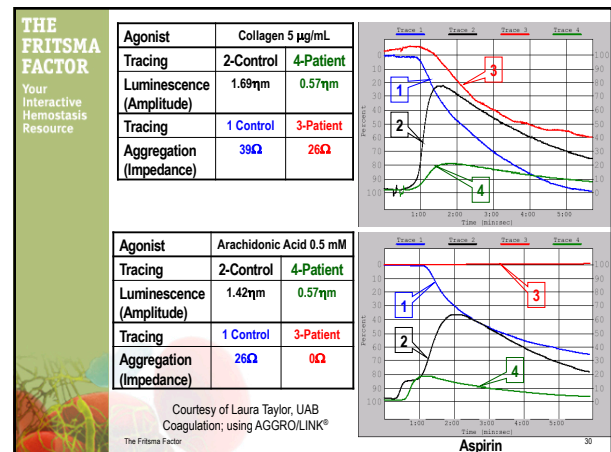
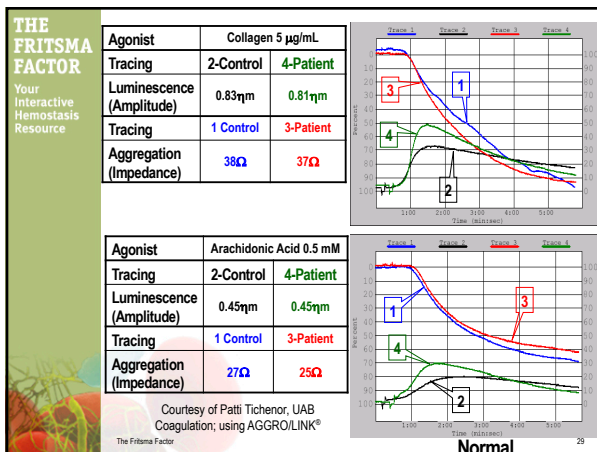
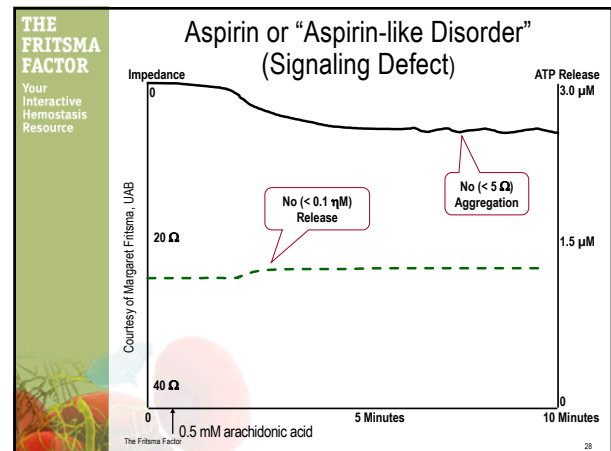
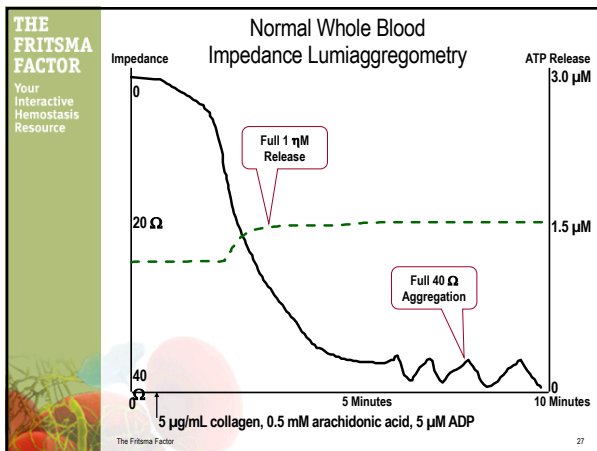
- 0.5 mM arachidonic acid (AA)
 - Directly activates eicosanoid synthesis pathway to produce TXA_2
 - TXA_2 activates platelet by binding internal receptors $\text{TP}\alpha$ or $\text{TP}\beta$
 - Response reduced by aspirin
- 1–5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ collagen
 - Binds receptors GP Ia/IIa (integrin $\alpha_2\beta_1$), GP IV, GP VI
 - Response reduced by aspirin
 - May bypass aspirin effect, aggregation via alternate pathways
- 5–10 μM ADP
 - ADP binds P_2Y_{12} receptor
 - Response reduced by thienopyridines like Plavix, Brilinta
 - May bypass aspirin effect, aggregation via alternate pathways

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Secretion Response Using The “Firefly” Reaction

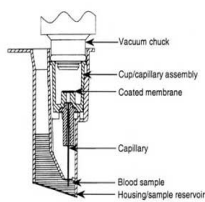
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Siemens (Dade-Behring) PFA-100

- Transfer 800 μ L citrated whole blood to each of two cartridges, load and run to closure time (CT)
 - Coated membrane: agonists
- Collagen and epinephrine (Col/Epi, CEPI)
 - "Weak:" normal CT 98–185 s
 - Initial cartridge
- Collagen and ADP (Col/ADP, CADP)
 - 50 μ M ADP
 - "Strong:" normal CT 77–133 s
 - Confirmatory cartridge



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PFA-100 Aspirin Response Assay

PFA-100 does not use arachidonic acid

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graph TD
    A[Col/Epi Cartridge] --> B{CT > 175s}
    A --> C{CT < 175s}
    B --> D[Col/ADP Cartridge]
    C --> E[Normal or aspirin resistance]
    D --> F{CT > 125s}
    D --> G{CT < 125s}
    F --> H[Severe VWD  
Severe PLT dysfunction]
    G --> I[Aspirin, NSAIDs  
Reduced HCT or PLT count  
Mild PLT dysfunction  
Mild VWD]
  
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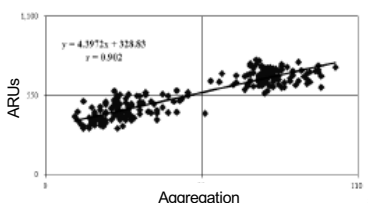
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Werfen VerifyNow® Aspirin Resistance Units (ARU)

Whole blood light transmittance rises as platelets aggregate to arachidonic acid. Aggregation suppressed by aspirin:

- ARUs <550: function inhibited = aspirin sensitive
- ARUs >550: function normal = aspirin resistance

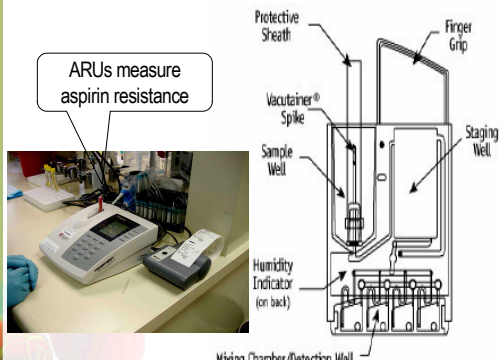


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Werfen VerifyNow Reaction Chamber

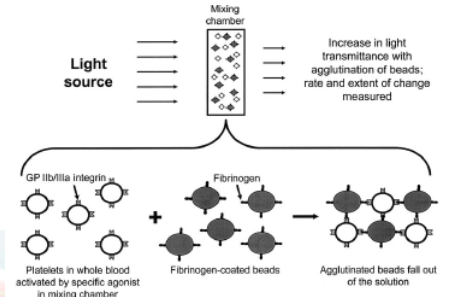
ARUs measure aspirin resistance



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VerifyNow Principle



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Werfen VerifyNow and PFA-100 Limitations

- Cartridges ~\$5.00 each
- Whole blood specimen volume 800 μ L/assay
- Precision: CVs >10%, often requires duplication
- Must test whole blood within four hours
- Variable effects of...
 - von Willebrand factor, factor VIII, fibrinogen
 - Platelet count and hematocrit

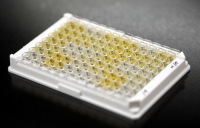
McGlasson DL, Fritsma GA, Shah AD. Effects of elevated fibrinogen, factor VIII, von Willebrand antigen, and immunologic von Willebrand factor on the INNOVANCE® PFA P2Y cartridge. Poster, ISTH 2009

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ASPIRINWORKS®
a division of Creative Clinical Concepts, Inc.

- Urinary 11-dehydrothromboxane B₂ (U 11-DHTB₂)
 - Liver-produce metabolite of plasma thromboxane B₂
- Platelet is the primary source for U11-DHTB₂
 - Also renal endothelial cells, monocytes
- Random urine specimen: store and ship
 - Normalized to urine creatinine: Pg U 11-DHTB₂/mg creatinine
- Liver and renal disease limitations



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2002 HOPE Study: Aspirin Resistance

- Nested (quartile) retrospective case-control sample
 - 488 aspirin-treated CAD patients: end point was 5-yr 2° MI, stroke, or CV death
 - 488 age- and sex-matched controls taking aspirin who did not have an MI, stroke, or CV death
- In aspirin-treated CAD patients, U11-DHTB₂ predicts risk of MI or CV death: fourth quartile U11-DHTB₂ = OR 3.5 for CV death

Pg U11-DHTB ₂ /mg creatinine	Quartile	Odds Ratio		
		MI	CV Death	Stroke
<134	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
134–193	2	1.3	2.0	2.5
194–298	3	1.5	2.5	0.6
>298	4	2.0	3.5	0.6

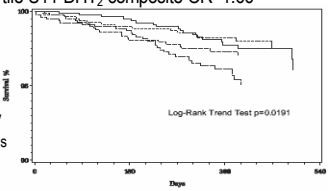
Elkelboom JW, Hirsch J, Weir J, et al. Aspirin-resistant thromboxane biosynthesis and the risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, and cardiovascular death in patients treated with aspirin. *Circulation* 2002;105:1650–55

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CHARISMA Trial: Dual Antiplatelet Therapy

- Randomized double-blind prospective trial of 3261 clopidogrel Vs. placebo in patients on aspirin at high risk of athero-thrombosis
 - Tested 1 month after starting clopidogrel, assigned quartiles
 - 144 with one-year stroke, MI, or CV death
 - 3117 with no adverse event
- Fourth quartile U11-DHT₂ composite OR=1.66



Kaplan-Meier curves for composite of stroke, MI, or CV death by quartiles

Log-Rank Trend Test p=0.0191

Elkelboom JW, Hankey GJ, Thom J, et al. Incomplete inhibition of thromboxane biosynthesis by acetylsalicylic acid. Determinants and effect on cardiovascular risk. *Circulation* 2008;118:1705–12

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CHARISMA Trial Conclusions

- Fourth quartile normal or elevated U11-DHTB₂
 - Age, ♀, PAD Hx, smoking, oral hypoglycemic Rx, ACE-inhibitor Rx
- Reduced U11-DHTB₂
 - Aspirin Rx >150 mg/d, NSAIDs, hypercholesterolemia, statin Rx
- Randomization to clopidogrel or placebo did not reduce risk ratio for CV events in patients in the fourth U11-DHTB₂ quartile
- U11-DHTB₂ level is potentially modifiable

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Aspirin Resistance Prevalence

	Overall	Prevalence
By definition	PFA-100	29.0%
	Ultegra VerifyNow	26.2%
	LTA	21.3%
	CAD	22.9%
By population	Stroke	32.1%
	< 100 mg/d	35.6%
By dose	101–299 mg/d	28.2%
	> 300 mg/d	18.6%

Hovens MMC, Snoep JD, Eikelboom CJ. Prevalence of persistent platelet reactivity despite use of aspirin: a systematic review. *Am Heart J* 2007;153:175–81.

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Aspirin Resistance and Adverse Events Review

Type	Percutaneous Intervention (Cath)	Stable CAD
N	151	106
% AR	19.2%	5.2%
Method	VerifyNow	Light Transmittance Aggregometry
Results	Elevated creatine kinase response associated with OR for CV events = 22.4	OR in AR Composite: 3.12 CV death: 2.98 MI: 1.91 CVA: 5.44
Ref	Chen WH, JACC 2004;43:1122	Cuisset T, J Thromb Haemost 2006;4:542

Gum PA, JACC 2003;41:961

AR= ASA resistance; CAD= coronary artery disease; OR= odds ratio; CV= cardiovascular; MI= myocardial infarction; CVA= cerebrovascular event

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Siemens PFA-100 and Aspirin Resistance

<i>Gum PA, JACC 2003;41:961</i>	9.5% aspirin resistance by CEPI closure time, low correlation with LTA
<i>Hézard N, Thromb Res 2002;108:43</i>	Poor aspirin resistance correlation among LTA, CEPI closure time, and flow
<i>Sane DC, Thromb Haemost 2002;88:711</i>	No CEPI closure time difference between aspirin resistance and aspirin sensitive
<i>Ten Berg JM, Thromb Res 2002;105:385</i>	CEPI closure time does not distinguish low dose from high dose aspirin
<i>Grundmann K, J Neurol 2003;250:63</i>	53 patients on aspirin for stroke prevention: CEPI closure time significantly shorter in 12/35 patients with recurrent stroke ($p < 0.01$)

CEPI = collagen-epinephrine cartridge
LTA = light transmittance aggregometry

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Variation in Lab Detection of Aspirin Resistance

Assay	Aspirin Resistance %
Werfen VerifyNow Aspirin	17
Siemens PFA-100 CEPI	22
LTA	5
All tests abnormal per subject	2

Harrison P, Segal H, Blasbery K. Screening for aspirin responsiveness after transient ischemic attack and stroke: comparison of 2 point-of-care platelet function tests with optical aggregometry. *Stroke* 2005 36:1001-5.

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Seven Days of Aspirin Comparison to Whole Blood Aggregometry

	Positive Predictive Value		Negative Predictive Value	
	81 mg	325 mg	81 mg	325 mg
AspirinWorks	74.3	82.1	40.2	0.0
PFA-100 CEPI	81.3	81.6	53.8	42.9
VerifyNow Aspirin	72.7	51.9	100	33.3

"Laboratory measures of PLT activity are suppressed by aspirin therapy, but are affected by the dosage and duration of therapy. Determinations of aspirin response should be made after at least 7 days of treatment. Laboratory test platform results do not closely reflect each other, thus application of laboratory platforms should be made consistently."

McGlasson DL, Fritsma GA. Comparison of four laboratory methods to assess aspirin sensitivity. *Blood Coagul Fibrinolysis* 2008;9:20-3

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24-h Response to 81 & 325 mg

Subjects Responsive to Aspirin By Assay Method (N = 49)

Assay Method	81 mg (Subjects)	325 mg (Subjects)
Agg: 1 ug Coll	10	45
Agg: 5 mM AA	12	45
11-DHT	25	40
Ultegra	10	45
PFA-100	18	40

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7-d Response to 81 & 325 mg

Subjects Responsive to ASA by Assay Method (N = 45)

Assay Method	81 mg (Subjects)	325 mg (Subjects)
Agg: 1 ug Coll	32	38
Agg: 5 mM AA	38	42
11-DHT	35	38
VerifyNow	42	42
PFA-100	32	38

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Aspirin Resistance Study Limitations

- Inter-assay variation
- Biological variation over time
- Failure to adjust for race, age and sex
- Failure to confirm compliance
 - Serum salicylate?
 - Non-compliance and early withdrawal may account for most AR
- Failure to separate confounding conditions
 - Hypertension, diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, smoking, and inflammation may contribute to aspirin resistance, while independently raising vascular risk

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Proposed Mechanisms of Aspirin Resistance

- Increased platelet turnover: more than 10% per day
- Activation of alternate platelet pathways not blocked by aspirin
 - Diacylglycerol pathway activated through G-protein
 - Adhesion molecules: collagen (GP Ia/IIa) & VWF receptors (GP Ib/IX)
 - Activation by shear stress in atherosclerosis
- Aspirin-mediated reduction of PLT-inhibiting prostacyclins from vascular endothelial cells
- Elevated VWF, fibrinogen activity level
- Polypharmacy (> 4 drugs)

Goodman T, Sharma P, Ferro A. The genetics of aspirin resistance. *Int J Clin Pract* 2007;61:826–34
 Kilanowska J, Favalaro EJ, Lippi G. Aspirin "responsiveness," "nonresponsiveness" or "resistance": a putative role for von Willebrand factor? *Blood Coagul Fibrinolysis* 2008;19:823–4

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More Proposed Mechanisms of Aspirin Resistance

- NSAIDs compete for Ser₅₂₉ site
 - Naprosyn, ibuprofen
- COX-2 Induction
 - Non-constitutive, COX-2 response to cytokines and inflammation
 - COX-2 in megakaryocytes, monocytes, macrophages, vascular endothelial cells and newly released platelets
 - After bypass surgery, 16-fold increase of COX-2 causing transient aspirin resistance
 - Acetylation of COX-2 Ser₅₂₉ incompletely hinders arachidonic acid's access to reactive site
 - Smoking, diabetes, heart failure and hyperlipidemia

Weber AA, Zimmermann KC, Meyer-Kirchath J, Schror K. Cyclooxygenase-2 in human platelets as a possible factor in aspirin resistance (letter). *Lancet* 1999; 353: 900.

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COX-2 200x Less Inhibited by Aspirin

Aspirin

Acetylated Ser₅₂₉

COX-2

PGG₂/PGH₂

TXA₂

Tyrosine

AA partially blocked

Arachidonic Acid

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Dual Antiplatelet Therapy

- Aspirin, 81 or 325 mg + clopidogrel, 75 mg; or prasugrel, ticagrelor critical in stents, reduce repeat MI 20%
- Clopidogrel resistance 15–63% detected by molecular or phenotypic tests, predicts risk
- Little variability in response to prasugrel or ticagrelor
- Ticagrelor is more effective than clopidogrel in ACS with and without PCI. Similar rates of bleeding as clopidogrel
- Typical duration: aspirin indefinite, clopidogrel 1–2 y
- Triple therapy: aspirin and clopidogrel plus Coumadin or DOAC: benefit in mechanical heart valves, bleeding 43% higher but lowered overall mortality 57%

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Bridging Dual Antiplatelet Therapy During Surgery

- Discontinue: 20% incidence of ischemia
- Continue: 35% increased bleeding
- ACCP 2011 guidelines: D/C 7–10 days
 - Consider platelet function testing

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So, do we test for aspirin resistance?

W Check. Clot Knot; Unraveling Tests for Coag Disorders. CAP Today, December 2008.

Dr. Kristi Smock: "I think it is a problem of using different definitions for aspirin resistance and measuring it with tests that have different sensitivities and specificities."

"Moreover," she adds, "testing for this condition is not generally recommended because it is not known what the treatment changes would be."

Dentali F, Douketis JD, Lim W, Crowther M. Combined aspirin–oral anticoagulant therapy compared with oral anticoagulant therapy alone among patients at risk for cardiovascular disease: a meta-analysis of randomized trials *Arch Intern Med* 2007;167:117–24.

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Response: Two Meta-Analyses

- Snoep JD, Hovens MMC, Eikenboom JCJ, et al. Association of laboratory-defined aspirin resistance with a higher risk of recurrent cardiovascular events: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Arch Intern Med* 2007;167:1593-9. Mean prevalence of laboratory aspirin resistance among all methods reviewed is 27%. Resistance predicts 3.8 OR for adverse cardiovascular outcomes. No concordance among methods.
- Krasopoulos G, Brister SJ, Beattie WS, Buchanan MR. Aspirin "resistance" and risk of cardiovascular morbidity: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2008; 336: 195-8. 20 studies totaling 2930 patients with cardiovascular disease. Classified 28% as aspirin resistant. Resistance confers a 3.85 OR for any adverse cardiovascular outcome including a 5.99 OR for death and a 2.96 OR for acute coronary syndrome. No concordance among methods.

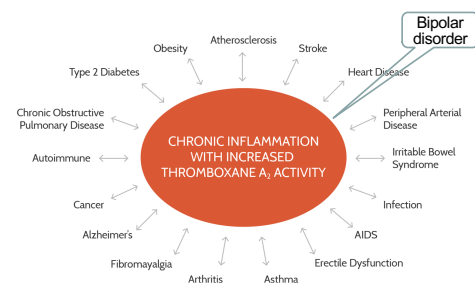
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DISEASES OF CHRONIC INFLAMMATION



Savitz JB, Teague TK, Misaki M, et al. Treatment of bipolar depression with minocycline and/or aspirin: an adaptive, 2A~2 double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled, phase IIA clinical trial. *Translational Psychiatry* 2018;8

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Activated Platelets and Cancer

- Platelets are activated by tumor cells and generate TXA_2 .
- Activated platelets raise activation potential of endothelium, attract WBCs to primary and metastatic tumor sites.
- Activated PLTs produce vascular endothelial growth factor, vascularize tumors.
- Activated platelets secrete and express inflammatory surface receptors that enhance cancer progression and metastasis.
- Activated platelets aid in metastasis by protecting circulating tumor cells from the immune system.
- COX-1 and 2 inhibition may enhance antitumor activity.
- U11-DHB₂ levels predict metastasis in relapsing breast cancer.
- U11-DHB₂ levels reflect activated platelets in colorectal cancer.
- Cancer progression is associated with thrombocytosis and platelet activity.

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