SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC ASSAYS IN THE CONTROL OF ORAL ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY.

Spectrophotometric methods were used to assay the clotting factors II, VII, IX and X in plasma of 33 human donors and in plasma of 98 patients receiving longterm oral anticoagulant therapy. In 33 normal subjects the inter-individual variations in the plasma activities of the clotting factors II, VII, IX and X are respectively 11%, 21%, 10% and 15%.

For the 98 patients receiving anticoagulant therapy Thrombotest values were compared to the activities of the vitamin K dependent factors, as assayed with spectrophotometric methods. The factors II and X were assayed with commercially available test-kits (Factor II, Boehringer Mannheim; Factor X, Kabi AB).

Chromogenic activities of the different factors were correlated among each other and with 1/Thrombotest values.

We conclude that factor II but also factor X chromogenic activity in plasma can be used to monitor patients receiving longterm anticoagulant therapy, whereas factor IX should be preferred to monitor patients receiving oral anticoagulants during a short period of time.