

Comparison of the Effects of Saline and CO2 on Clotting in Angiographic Catheters

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Methods:

Four French (4F) Hawkins Hairpin catheters (Angiodynamics) were introduced into the abdominal aorta of anesthetized rabbits via a 4 F Check Flo Performer introducer set (Cook). One minute after flushing with non- heparinized saline or CO2, the catheters were withdrawn. The clots were expelled from the catheters on to pre-weighed #1 Whatman filter paper. The filter papers were dried and the weight of the clots recorded. Four trials were performed for each flushing medium. The animal was not heparinized during the experiment. The results are summarized below.

Results:	<i>CO2</i>	<i>Saline</i>
<u>Trials</u>	<u>Clot Weight (gms)</u>	<u>Clot Weight (gms)</u>
1.	0.029	0.021
2.	0.035	0.019
3.	0.032	0.024
4.	0.023	0.020
Mean	0.030	0.021

Summary:

Clots were seen in all catheters regardless of the flushing medium. By weight measure , 42.6 % more clots were found in CO2 flushed catheters than saline flushed catheters.