

University of California, San Francisco-Dept of Laboratory Medicine  
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital - Point of Care Testing  
1001 Potrero Ave, Bldg 25, SF, CA 94110  
Clinical Laboratory – Barbara Haller, MD, PhD, Laboratory Director

## Point of Care Testing: Activated Clotting Time (ACT)

**UNIT: Operating Room**

**Effective Date: 2/26/21**



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Barbara Haller, MD, PhD  
Director, Clinical Laboratory

### Clinical Indication

- Activated clotting time (ACT) testing for patients in the OR for endovascular procedures. Patients under consideration for endovascular procedures such as stenting, angioplasty, and embolization will be tested at the discretion of the OR attending by qualified IR nurses (or Cath Lab nurses) performing the procedure.

### Documentation

- Orders and results will be documented on an ACT results sheet.

### Clinical Action

- Baseline ACT will be acquired on patients under consideration for an endovascular procedure.
- Post-heparinization ACT will be acquired 5 minutes after an initial bolus of heparin (typically 70 units per kg) has been administered IV.
- If post-heparinization ACT is double the baseline or between 250 and 300 seconds, then endovascular intervention will proceed. Half the initial bolus dose of heparin will be administered on an hourly basis during the procedure.
- If post-heparinization ACT is less than double the baseline, then an additional weight-based dose of heparin will be administered and a repeat ACT will be performed after an additional 5 minute wait.

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- If post-heparinization ACT is greater than 300 seconds, then less than half the initial dose of heparin will be administered on an hourly basis during the procedure at the discretion of the attending radiologist.
- A post-reversal ACT will be performed on all patients in whom heparin is reversed with protamine.