

# PF4/Heparin antibodies predict mortality in HIT

January 11 2016

---



(HealthDay)—Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) is infrequent in

patients undergoing cardiac surgery, but is associated with increased 30-day mortality, according to a study published in the Jan. 15 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

Xiumei Sun, M.D., from the Medstar Heart Institute in Washington, D.C., and colleagues examined the impact of HIT on contemporary cardiac surgical practice. A total of 14,415 consecutive patients undergoing [cardiac surgery](#) were screened postoperatively for thrombocytopenia. Those with thrombocytopenia were tested for antiplatelet factor 4 (PF4)/heparin antibodies and assessed for clinical evidence of thrombosis.

The researchers found that 13 percent of the patients had thrombocytopenia. Of these, 15 and 4 percent had PF4/heparin antibodies and antibodies and clinical thrombosis, respectively. The frequency of antibodies was elevated in women ( $P = 0.01$ ), in patients with increased [body mass index](#) ( $P$

"HIT remains an infrequent but very serious complication of heparin therapy in contemporary cardiac surgical practice," the authors write. "The possibility that the presence of HIT [antibodies](#) in [patients](#) with thrombocytopenia independently increases operative mortality deserves further study."

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2016 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: PF4/Heparin antibodies predict mortality in HIT (2016, January 11) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-01-pf4heparin-antibodies-mortality.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.