

ECAT Information: Programme changes in 2021

In 2021 there will be the following changes in the ECAT EQA Programme:

1. Thromboelastography Programme:
(This programme was previously called the ROTEM/TEG Programme)
Within the Thromboelastography Programme it will also be possible to participate for the Clot-Pro instrument.
2. Von Willebrand Factor Module:
Starting in 2021 the Von Willebrand Factor Module includes 2 different samples (2 vials each) per survey. The benefit of this change is the fact that in one survey the Z-scores of two different samples can be compared in a Z-score plot. This provides you with information about potential systematic and/or random errors in testing.
3. Emicizumab:
A new module for the quantitative measurement of Emicizumab will be added to programme. This module is part of the Main programme. There will be two surveys per year, including two samples per survey.

In 2021 we will also organise a pilot study. This time the pilot study focuses on the APTT mixing study. Mixing studies represent a simple but very useful tool for the first investigations if APTT prolongations are unexpectedly found. By mixing the patient's sample with normal (pooled) plasma, they can help to distinguish between factor deficiencies, the presence of specific or unspecific inhibitors or lupus anticoagulant. The purpose of this pilot study is to investigate different analytical methodologies (e.g. ratio patient plasma – normal plasma, incubation yes or no) in relation to the interpretation of the test results. The study includes several samples with different causes for a prolonged APTT.