Protamine--the need to determine the dose. Comparison of a simple protamine titration method with an empirical dose regimen for reversal of heparinisation following cardiopulmonary bypass.

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Abstract

A simple method of protamine titration using the Hemochron system was compared with an empirical dose protocol for reversal of heparinisation following cardiopulmonary bypass in 40 patients undergoing elective myocardial revascularisation. Protamine titration revealed a wide range for protamine requirement and resulted in a significant reduction in protamine dose compared with the empirical dose protocol (p less than 0.01). Heparin reversal was assessed as adequate in all patients. The titration technique was easy and straightforward to use in the operating theatre.