

Patient information sheet

Capillary CRP (C-reactive protein) : What is it?

Current context:

According to the WHO, antibiotic resistance is on the increase worldwide. According to the European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption Network (ESAC net), France is one of the leading prescribers of antibiotics in Europe, well above the European average, with a defined daily dose (DDD) of 28.5, compared with the European average of 21.9. According to INSERM, one way of combating antibiotic resistance would be to use inexpensive, easy-to-use rapid tests.

Definition:

CRP (C-reactive protein) is a protein produced by the liver as a result of inflammation or infection in the body, it rises rapidly in the blood. It is measured to give an idea of the likelihood of infection.

CRP is often high in bacterial infections and low in viral infections. CRP is usually measured by a blood test, but the result is not immediate.

There is now an automated system for rapid analysis (5 min) of CRP by taking a capillary sample using a drop of blood taken from the fingertip. This rapid assay reduces the need to prescribe antibiotics and complementary tests, and to guide prescribing.

In practice:

Capillary CRP is performed, for example, in the event of prolonged fever with no obvious clinical to determine whether or not antibiotics should be prescribed. It can also be performed if there is any doubt as to whether a viral infection, which does not require antibiotic prescription, or bacterial infection requiring antibiotic prescription.

The Thiers, Joze, Dorat and Saint-Eloy-Les-Mines study:

Like a pilot, a study is underway at the Thiers hospital and the Joze medical practice, as well as at the Dorat and St-Eloy to determine the use of capillary CRP in the context of a consultation.

This study does not affect the management. Our study is simply to observe the context in which GP use rapid CRP measurement. The aim is to find out whether this practice can be adapted to the practice of a general practitioner in an outpatient clinic. The data collected remain strictly private and their use is by the CPP (Comité de Protection des Personnes) and the CNIL (Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés). Data will be anonymized for interpretation purposes, and will only be kept for 5 years from the date of thesis defense, before being deleted.

If you have any questions about this study, please contact us directly by e-mail.