

**Table 4** Acute atrial fibrillation and the effect of arrhythmia duration

	Acute atrial fibrillation		p Value
	Group 1 (≤12 hours)	Group 2 (>12 hours)	
n	17	14	
Age in years (mean (SD))	60 (16)	62 (18)	0.80
Sex (M: F)	11:6	8:6	0.67
Duration of AF hours	8 (3)	26 (13)	<0.0001*
Aspirin: no antithrombotic therapy	7:10	4:10	0.47
Smoker: non-smoker	2:15	1:13	0.67
Hypertensive: normotensive	9:8	6:8	0.58
Diabetics: non-diabetics	3:14	1:13	0.39
CVA: no CVA	0:17	1:13	---
IHD: no IHD	3:14	2:12	0.80
Cardiac failure: no cardiac failure	2:15	0:14	---
Blood platelets (x 10 <sup>9</sup> /l)	277 (69)	285 (100)	0.81
Hematocrit (%)	46 (3)	44 (6)	0.23
Fibrinogen (g/l)	3.3 (0.8)	2.5 (0.4)	0.02
Plasma viscosity (mpa)	1.8 (0.1)	1.7 (0.1)	0.13
β-TG (IU/ml)	78 (58–110)	93 (63–138)	0.49
Soluble P-selectin (ng/ml)	39 (8)	38 (6)	0.75
Fibrin D-dimer (ng/ml)	710 (440–1200)	605 (405–2070)	0.90
<i>Platelet aggregation</i>			
<i>in response to (agonist)</i>			
• ADP	73 (66-84)	68 (36-84)	0.65
• Collagen	58 (21-82)	26 (20-60)	0.15
• Adrenaline (epinephrine)	30 (24-46)	48 (34-50)	0.06
• Thrombin	21 (01-48)	12 (03-85)	0.69

Unpaired *t* test, Mann Whitney *U* test and chi squared test, as appropriate. Results are expressed as numbers, and as mean (standard deviation (SD) or median (interquartile range, IQR). Values of platelet aggregation are expressed as median (interquartile range) percentage aggregation at 3 minutes.

AF, atrial fibrillation; IHD, ischaemic heart disease; CVA, cerebrovascular accident;  $\beta$ -TG,  $\beta$  thromboglobulin; ADP, adenosine diphosphate.