

Appendix 1: Serial platelet counts following cardiac surgery.

Onset of HIT occurred on postoperative day 6. Patient serum obtained on day 8 (d8) and diluted as much as 1:64 tested strongly positive (> 80% serotonin release) for HIT antibodies in the serotonin-release assay (SRA). Patient serum obtained on d11 — when thrombocytopenia was maximal — did not show evidence of fondaparinux cross-reactivity; despite strong heparin-dependent serotonin release using patient serum diluted 1:16 and 1:64, no fondaparinux-dependent platelet activation was seen at these serum concentrations. Also shown is the percentage serotonin release induced by patient serum (samples obtained on days 8, 11, 14, 18, 44 and 88) in the presence of heparin (mean percentage release at 0.1 and 0.3 IU/mL UFH), as well as in the buffer control (0 IU/mL UFH). There is an inverse correlation between percentage serotonin release at 0 IU/mL heparin and the severity of thrombocytopenia. Abbr.: d, day; HIT, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia; IU, international units; UFH, unfractionated heparin.

