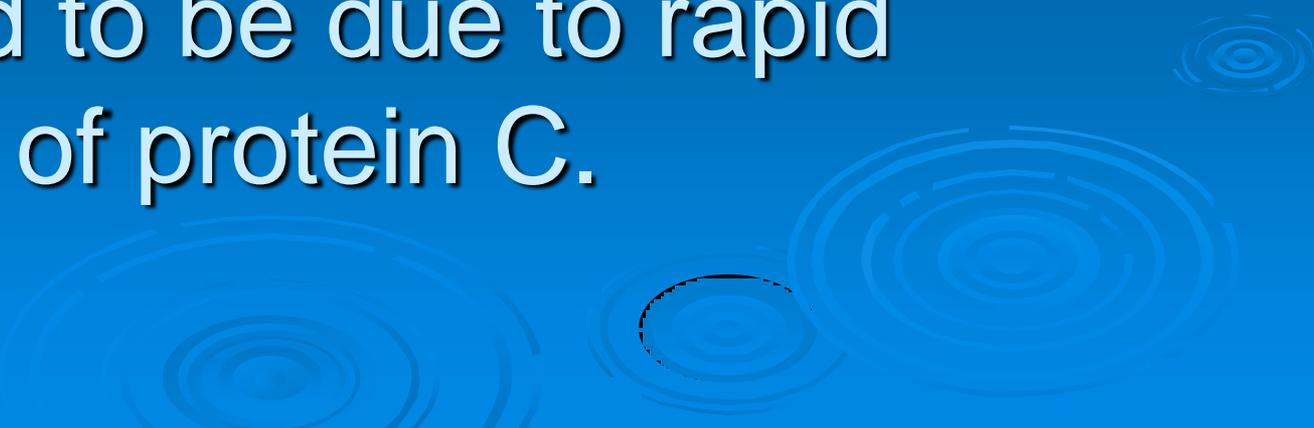


Warfarin Skin Necrosis

By: fatma harb



Definition :

- Lesions that follow warfarin Rx
 - occurring in 0.01%-0.1% of all pts receiving warfarin.
 - Believed to be due to rapid depletion of protein C.
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Diagnosis

- Lesions usually appear 3-6 days after initiation of Rx.

- The lesions often develop in the skin overlying fatty areas:
- buttocks
- thighs
- breasts



- Skin necrosis begins suddenly:
- as painful erythematous
- edematous and indurated
- hemorrhagic
- necrotic plaques
- nodules
- bullae
- indurations and infarcts
- w/eschar formation
- sloughing





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➤ Etiology :

- ■ Pts who are deficient in protein C are at high risk because the disorder is thought to be due to a temporary imbalance between the procoagulant and vitamin K factors.

Can be prevented by avoiding ↑ loading doses of warfarin and achieving therapeutic anticoagulant levels w/UFH or LMWH

- patients with known protein C or protein S deficiency require overlapping treatment with a parenteral anticoagulant when initiating warfarin therapy. Warfarin should be started in low doses in these patients and the parenteral anticoagulant should be continued until the INR is therapeutic for at least 2 to 3 consecutive days

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