

Tried and tested

CoaguChek: Experiences of use in Day Surgery

ANNA LIPP & LIZ ROONEY ARTHUR SOUTH DAY PROCEDURE UNIT

The CoaguChek is a device similar to a glucometer which can give an INR result from a finger prick blood sample within one minute. We started using a CoaguChek in our day unit 18 months ago. We wanted to offer day surgery to anticoagulated patients who could stop their anticoagulants safely without requiring perioperative heparin. Previously, we sent a venous sample to the pathology laboratory on admission and could be waiting a couple of hours for a result, delaying the start of surgery. This was inconvenient for the patients and surgeons and a disincentive to treating anticoagulated patients as day cases. The CoaguChek was already being used in our anticoagulant clinic and the haematologists suggested it might be useful in the day procedure unit (DPU) for preoperative patients.

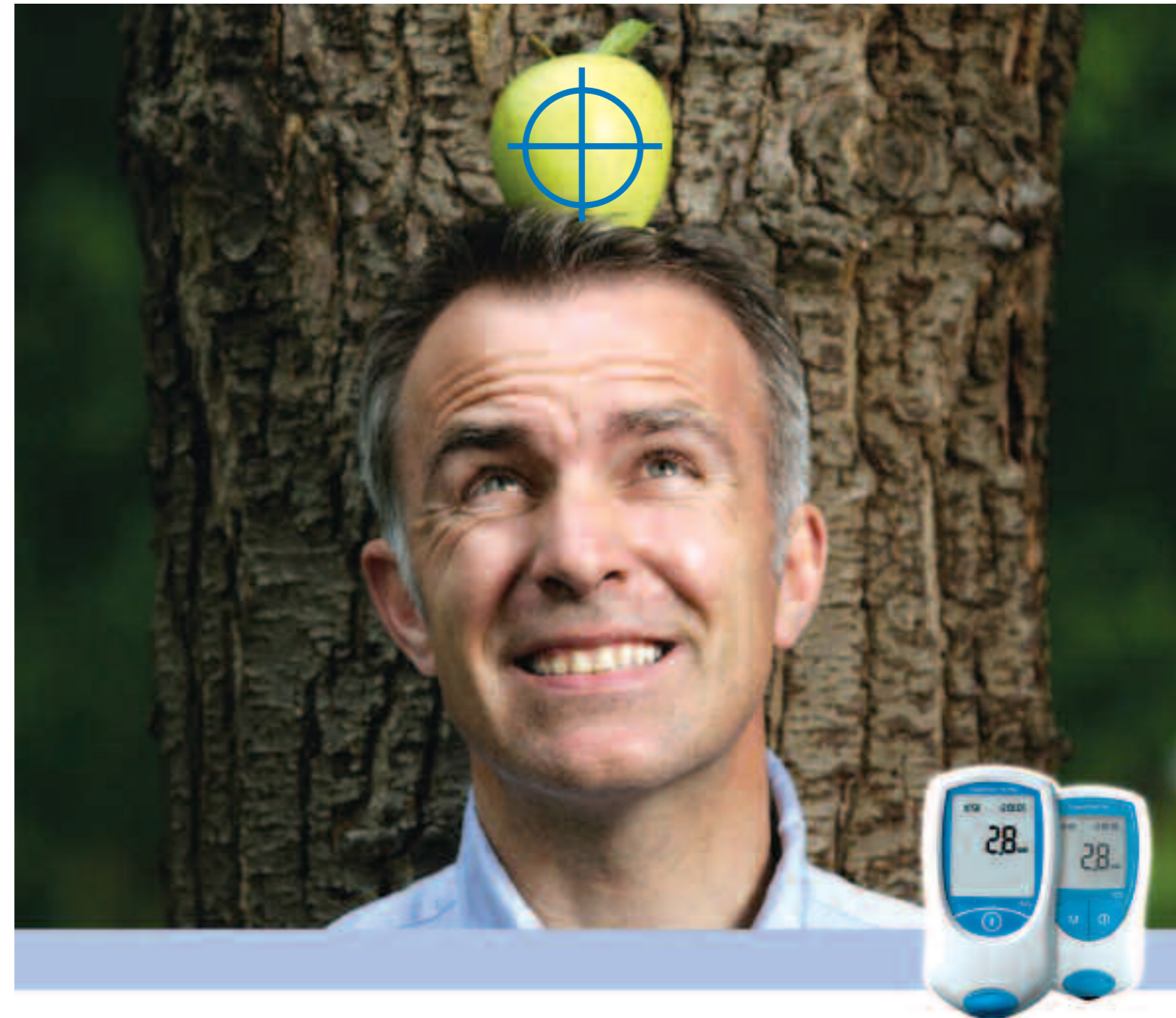
Initially, four members of DPU nursing staff and two laboratory staff attended a study day, run by Roche, involving practical and

theoretical sessions. A senior nurse from DPU also attended the anticoagulant clinic, observing the CoaguChek in use there and learning how to perform internal and external quality checks.

Once in use in the DPU, the first 20 patients were parallel tested in the laboratory and the results were audited. This confirmed the accuracy was acceptable and subsequently, parallel checks were performed fortnightly. Additional nurses have since been trained as users in-house.

Since the introduction in April 2006, 350 patients on anticoagulants have had their INR checked with CoaguChek in DPU prior to their surgery. We have found the CoaguChek to be simple to use and helpful in the day unit setting, avoiding delays for anticoagulated patients.

When patients are on warfarin,
accuracy and precision in INR monitoring are vital



CoaguChek® XS and XS Plus provide results that are equal to or better than laboratory standards¹, giving you the confidence that you are making the right dosing decisions and improving patient outcomes.

Roche Diagnostics has 15 years of experience in Point of Care INR monitoring and is the global market leader. Healthcare professionals around the world successfully use the CoaguChek® range to deliver INR monitoring services at the Point of Care.

CoaguChek®
Because it's my life

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Whether you are considering near-patient testing, or recommending CoaguChek® to your patients for self-testing, please call **01444 256000**,[†] contact your Roche Diagnostics representative for more information, or visit **www.coaguChek.co.uk**

[†]To improve the quality of our service, calls received or made by Roche Diagnostics may be recorded

Accuracy - International Sensitivity Index (ISI) = 1.0 (WHO and the British Society of Haematology recommend an ISI between 1.0 and 1.4)

Precision - coefficient variation (CV) of 3.9%. Subsequent evaluations have shown CVs of 1.7%, comparable to the precision of laboratory analysers

Test strips - use unique single channel technology for on-board control

Minimal strip wastage - due to easy blood application and robust chemistry, evaluations have demonstrated minimal strip wastage - only 1 out of 84 strips is wasted.²

References

- Heneghan C et al. Lancet 2006;367:404-11.
- NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing, Report 06034, CoaguChek XS system, May 2006.



Diagnostics