

Antiphospholipid syndrome is a systemic autoimmune disease characterised by presence of the antiphospholipid antibodies in serum.

The diagnosis of APS including aPL measured in solid-phase immunoassays (ELISA) as anticardiolipin antibodies or detected in phospholipid dependent clotting tests as lupus anticoagulans. Positive APS is characterised by prolonged coagulation times. In pregnancy APS is characterised by placental insufficiency, pre-term delivery, pre-eclampsia and intrauterine growth retardation. It interferes in trophoblast growth and invasion and hampers in trophoblast function. At present is used low-molecular-weight heparin in combination with low-dose aspirin. Non-pregnant patients with history of thrombosis are usually treated by warfarin to keep an APTT between 2-3.