

LETTER TO THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

ACCURACY OF THE HAAKE FALLING BALL MICROVISCOMETER

D. Norcliffe*, B.L. Devi
Department of Haematology, Barnsley General Hospital and
*St. James's University Hospital, Leeds

(Accepted 2.7.1992 by Editor-in-Chief S. Witte)

Following the laboratory evaluation of the HAAKE Falling Ball Microviscometer (1) its accuracy has now been examined. The viscosity values of a range of 67 plasma samples from the hospital population was simultaneously determined by both the HAAKE instrument and that of the ICSH recommended technique: the Coulter Viscometer 11(2).

The mean plasma viscosity values were obtained for both instruments and found to be directly comparable using a paired "t" test ($t = 0.143$, tabulated $t = 1.96$ with 132 degrees of freedom). The mean viscosity for the Coulter instrument was 1.41 mPa.s. with a standard deviation of 0.25 and a total range of 1.17-3.10 mPa.s. The HAAKE instrument produced a mean of 1.41 mPa.s. with a standard deviation of 0.20 and a total range of 1.19-2.74 mPa.s. Using linear regression analysis the "r" value was found to be 0.984 $p < 0.001$. A temperature of 37°C was used throughout.

It can be concluded therefore that the accuracy of the HAAKE instrument is acceptable in this laboratory and that no further correction is required following the calculation of viscosity as described in the original evaluation.

REFERENCES

1. NORCLIFFE, D. A laboratory evaluation of the HAAKE Falling Ball Microviscometer. Clin. Haemorheol. 10:2, 165-169, 1990.
2. ICSH Recommendation for a selected method for the measurement of plasma viscosity. J. Clin. Path. 37, 1147-1152, 1984.