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Inside Haematologica. Inherited thrombophilia: the impact of our increasing understanding of molecular mechanisms on clinical practice

The chapter of genetic thrombophilia was opened in this journal by a landmark article by Bjorn Dahlback.[1] Four years later, Dahlback *et al*.[2] introduced the concept of *thrombophilia as a multigenic disease*. At that time they wrote: "*The realization that thrombophilia is a multifactorial disease, with both circumstantial and genetic risk factors being involved in its pathogenesis, is presumably going to influence the future management of the thrombophilic patient. However, available data are not sufficient for calculation of the thrombosis risk associated with combinations of genetic defects. As most studies are made on selected populations, while accurate prevalence numbers of the different defects in the general population are still lacking, it can only be concluded that individuals with combined defects have higher thrombosis risk than those with individual defects*."

In subsequent years, Haematologica has published several papers on the subject of genetic thrombophilia.[3-16] In this issue of Haematologica, two reports deal with genetic predisposition to thromboembolism.[17,18] In particular, De Stefano *et al*.[18] have carefully analyzed the available evidence in order to establish simple guidelines for the management of patients with inherited thrombophilia.

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