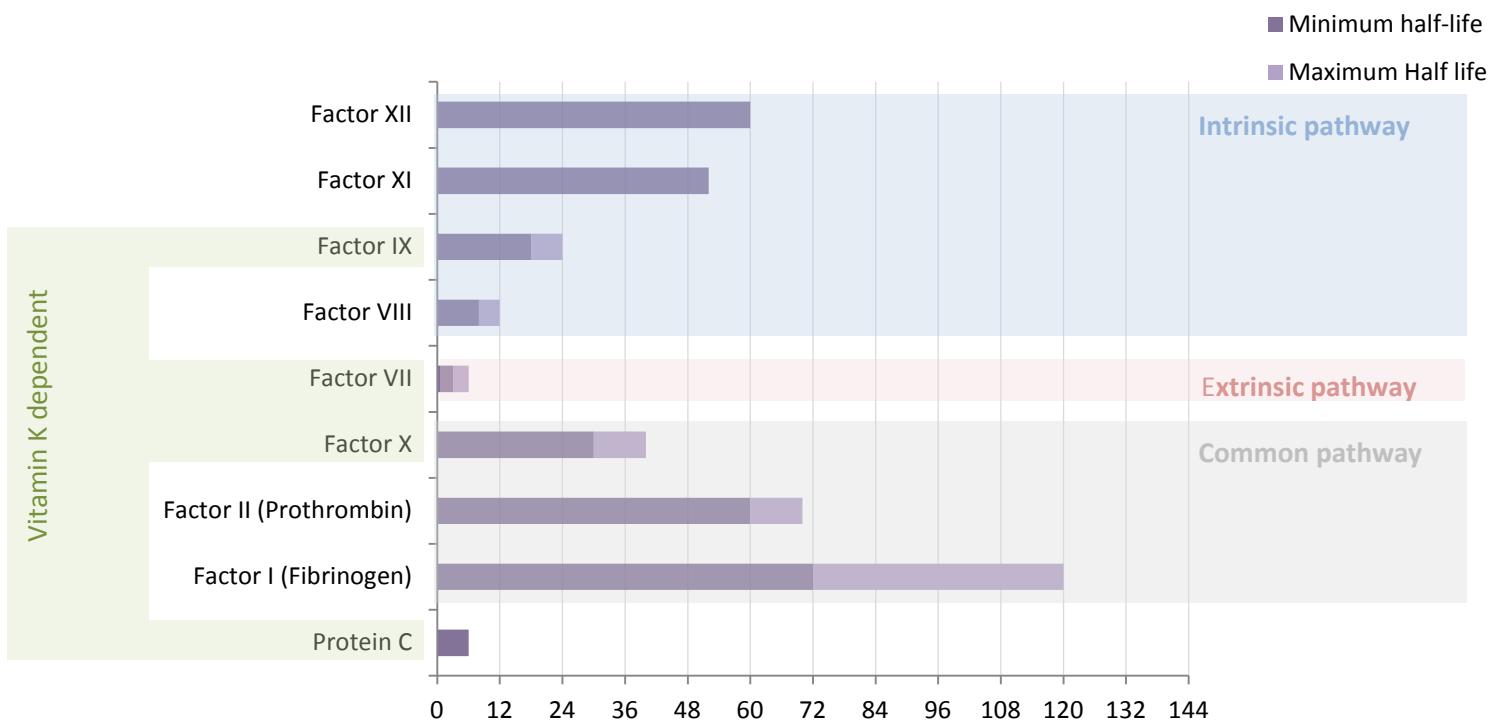


Half-lives of the Coagulation Cascade Factors



- Factor XII: Half life 60 hrs
- Factor XI: Half life 52 hrs
- Factor IX: Half life 18-24 hrs
- Factor VIII: Half life 8-12 hrs
- Factor VII: Half life 3-6 hours
- Factor X: Half life 30-40 hrs
- Factor II (Prothrombin): Half life 60-70 hrs
- Factor I (Fibrinogen): Half life 72-120 hrs
- Protein C: Half-life 6 hrs

In absence of vitamin K, the first factors to be depleted are factor VII and protein C. The extrinsic pathway is turned off; the measured PT will be high, but blood can still clot via the intrinsic pathway.

If there is no protein C, the normal inhibition mechanism of the intrinsic pathway is turned off.

This means there is an increased tendency to clot via the intrinsic pathway.

Thus, the first day of warfarin therapy is a day of thrombotic diathesis.