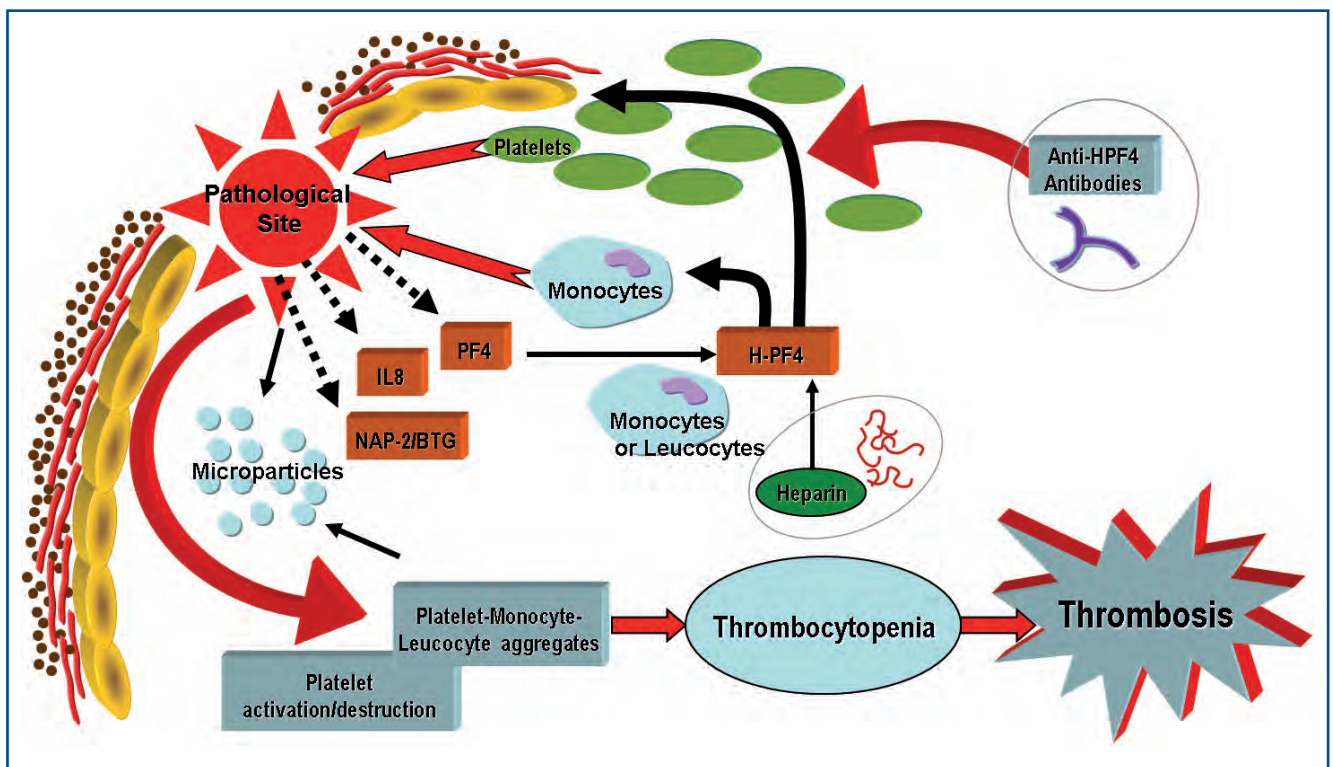


# Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT)



Scheme showing how heparin dependent antibodies, mainly targeted to Platelet Factor 4 (PF4) complexed with heparin, can activate platelets and endothelium, induce formation of platelets and platelet-leukocyte aggregates, and then lead to thrombus formation by complexed mechanisms also involving release of Tissue Factor (TF) from endothelial cells and monocytes.

A white clot (containing predominantly platelets and leukocytes) is formed in about 1/3 of cases and a red blood clot is formed in the vast majority of cases (2/3), where activation of plasma factors and blood cells lead to blood clotting.