

Core and shell platelets of a thrombus: A new microfluidic assay to study mechanics and biochemistry

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Abstract

Background: Hemostatic clots have a P-selectin positive platelet core covered with a shell of P-selectin negative platelets.

Objective: To develop a new human blood microfluidic assay to interrogate core/shell mechanics.

Methods: A 2-stage assay perfused whole blood over collagen/ \pm tissue factor (TF) for 180 seconds at 100 s⁻¹ wall shear rate, followed by buffer perfusion at either 100 s⁻¹ (venous) or 1000 s⁻¹ (arterial). This microfluidic assay used an extended channel height (120 μ m), allowing buffer perfusion well before occlusion.

Results: Clot growth on collagen stopped immediately with buffer exchange, revealing ~10% reduction in platelet fluorescence intensity (at 100 s⁻¹) and ~30% (at 1000 s⁻¹) by 1200 seconds. Thrombin generation (on collagen/TF) reduced erosion at either buffer flow rate. P-selectin-positive platelets were stable (no erosion) against 1000 s⁻¹, in contrast to P-selectin negative platelets. Thrombin inhibition (with D-Phe-Pro-Arg-CMK) reduced the number of P-selectin-positive platelets and lowered thrombus stability through the reduction of P-selectin-positive platelets. Interestingly, fibrin inhibition (with H-Gly-Pro-Arg-Pro-OH acetate salt) increased the number of P-selectin-positive platelets but did not lower stability, suggesting that fibrin was only in the core region. Thromboxane inhibition reduced P-selectin-positive platelets and caused a nearly 60% reduction of the clot at arterial buffer flow. P2Y1 antagonism reduced clot size and the number of P-selectin-positive platelets and reduced the stability of P-selectin-negative platelets.

Conclusion: The 2-stage assay (extended channel height plus buffer exchange) interrogated platelet stability using human blood. Under all conditions, P-selectin-positive platelets never left the clot.

KEYWORDS

platelets, P-selectin, shear stress, thrombin, thrombosis

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Essentials

- The relationship between core/shell platelet mechanics and stability is not fully elucidated.
- We designed a 2-step microfluidic assay to use shear stress to monitor platelet erosion.
- The highly activated, tightly packed core region is stable when exposed to high shear.
- Thrombin and secondary agonists, but not fibrin, are crucial for thrombus stability.

1 | INTRODUCTION

Under physiological conditions, platelets are kept quiescent by endothelial cell production of molecules such as nitric oxide and prostaglandin I₂.¹ In the event of vascular injury or inflammation, this inhibition is suppressed and results in platelet activation and accumulation.² Agonists of varying potencies such as adenosine 5'-diphosphate (ADP), thromboxane A₂ (TxA₂), thrombin, and collagen activate platelets through receptor-mediated signaling.³ Alongside platelet activation, tissue factor (TF) triggers fibrin generation via thrombin production,⁴ resulting in a thrombus composed of platelets linked via fibrinogen with an interspersed fibrin mesh. As a thrombus is formed, platelets are activated nonuniformly,⁵ and heterogeneous intracellular calcium mobilization⁶ results in differing populations of platelets with respect to P-selectin expression, granule release, and phosphatidylserine exposure. Highly activated platelets undergo pseudopod formation and α -granule release,^{3,7} whereas less activated platelets retain their discoid morphology.^{5,8}

In vivo mouse models drive a core/shell hierarchy during the hemostatic response to injury.⁹⁻¹² This organization consists of a tightly packed, highly activated core of platelets that are P-selectin positive and a loosely packed, less activated shell of P-selectin negative platelets. Similar core/shell architecture composed of a P-selectin positive core localized at the collagen surface surrounded by a P-selectin negative shell is observed with human blood perfused over prothrombotic surfaces.¹³ Transthrombus pressure gradients from the lumen to the interstitial space that reduce local thrombin also reduce the thickness of the P-selectin positive core region.¹³ The stability of a thrombus can influence whether it will grow to occlusion or not. Importantly, as a clot grows into the flow field, the shear forces increase on the clot surface as the lumen is reduced until the approach of the vessel occlusion when flow ceases. Causes of (in)stability have been examined for a wide variety of proteins, including receptors and membrane proteins,¹⁴⁻¹⁶ plasma proteins,¹⁷⁻²⁰ and intracellular signaling proteins,^{21,22} and the importance of clot retraction and fibrin.^{23,24} Even though there is overlap in which pathways appear to be important in both thrombus stability and growth, there appear to be differences between the two. Therefore, we have developed a 2-stage microfluidic assay to measure the mechanics of the core/shell clot architecture using human blood.

In vitro microfluidic devices allow for precise control over flow fields, prothrombotic surfaces, and imaging resolution.²⁵ Previous research has shown the presence of core/shell morphology in thrombi formed in both side-view²⁶ and stagnation point devices.²⁷ A device composed of 8 identical parallel channels has been used

to study thrombus growth through the use of immunofluorescence.²⁸⁻³¹ This 8-channel device allows for many conditions or replicates to be studied for a single donor. The goal of this study is to use in vitro microfluidics to study platelet activation, specifically core/shell morphology, in the context of thrombus stability using a 2-step process with a modified 8-channel device. The modification to the 8-channel is an extended height (120 μ m vs 60 μ m) to prevent occlusion from occurring at early time points.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 | Blood collection and preparation

Whole blood (WB) was collected in 40 μ g/mL corn trypsin inhibitor (CTI; Haematologic Technologies, Essex Junction, VT, USA) or 100 μ M D-Phe-Pro-Arg-CMK (PPACK; Haematologic Technologies) from healthy donors who self-reported to be free of oral medication for at least 10 days before phlebotomy. All blood was collected under approval of the University of Pennsylvania's Institutional Review Board. WB was treated with various reagents: 5 mM H-Gly-Pro-Arg-Pro-OH acetate salt (GPRP; Bachem Americas, Vista, CA, USA), 50 μ M acetylsalicylic acid (ASA; Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA), or 100 μ M MRS-2179 (Tocris, Minneapolis, MN, USA). Platelets were labeled with an AF488 mouse anti-human CD61 antibody (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA) at 20 μ g/mL, P-selectin was labeled with AF647 anti-human CD62P (BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA) at 2 μ g/mL. AF647-conjugated fibrinogen was added to WB at 12.5 μ g/mL to observe fibrin formation.

2.2 | Device fabrication and preparation

Microfluidic devices were fabricated out of polydimethylsiloxane (Ellsworth Adhesives, Germantown, WI, USA) using previously described soft lithography techniques.³² A single-channel (250 μ m wide and 60 μ m high) patterning device was vacuum-sealed to a Sigmacote (Sigma-Aldrich) treated slide, and 5 μ L of 1 mg/mL type I fibrillar collagen was perfused through the channel to create a prothrombotic surface. For some experiments, 5 μ L of 20- μ M lipidated tissue factor (TF; Siemens, Munich, Germany) was adsorbed to the collagen surface through Dade Innovin prothrombin time reagent. The TF was incubated for 30 minutes without flow and then rinsed with 20 μ L of 0.5% bovine serum albumin (BSA; Sigma-Aldrich) in 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline

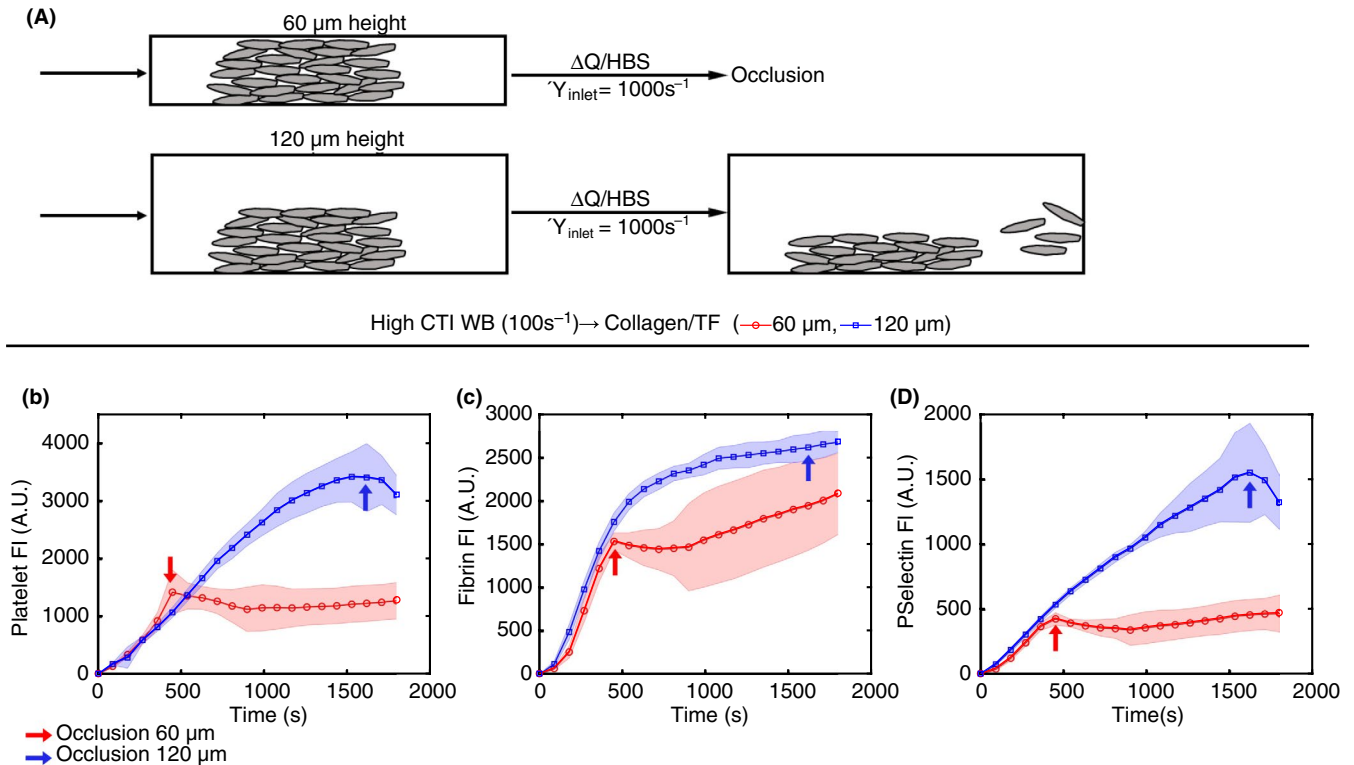


FIGURE 1 A taller microfluidic device increases occlusion time, which widens the window to probe clot morphology and stability. A, Schematic demonstrating that 60- μm -tall channels occlude when switching to buffer (HBS) at an increased initial wall shear of 1000 s^{-1} ; 120- μm -tall channels do not occlude when switching, allowing for platelets to shear off the thrombus. High-CTI WB at 100 s^{-1} was perfused over collagen/TF in both 60- μm (red) and 120- μm (blue) 8-channel devices to examine occlusion time of each device. B, Platelets were labeled with Alexa-fluor (AF) 488 anti-CD61. C, Fibrin was examined by adding AF647-conjugated fibrinogen to the blood. D, P-selectin expression was labeled with phycoerythrin anti-CD62P. Data are expressed as mean \pm SD. $N = 8$ clots for 1 donor. CTI, corn trypsin inhibitor; FI, fluorescence intensity; HBS, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline; TF, tissue factor; WB, whole blood

(HBS; Figure S1A). A microfluidic device composed of 8 parallel 250- μm -wide channels with heights of either 60 μm or 120 μm measured with a P7 2 Profilometer (KLA-Tencor, Milpitas, CA, USA) were positioned perpendicular to the collagen strip and vacuum sealed to the slide. The device was incubated with 0.5% BSA for 30 minutes before the introduction of blood.

2.3 | Microfluidic assay

CTI-treated WB was perfused for a period of 180 seconds through the 8-channel device within 10 minutes of phlebotomy (Figure S1B). An initial wall shear rate of 100 s^{-1} (24 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$) was set by a syringe pump (PHD 2000; Harvard Apparatus, Holliston, MA, USA). After 3 minutes, the WB was swapped out for HBS, and the wall shear rate was either held constant or increased to 1000 s^{-1} (240 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$, Figure S1C). Wall shear rates were determined with COMSOL Multiphysics (COMSOL Inc, Burlington, MA, USA). Platelets, fibrin, and P-selectin were detected by an epifluorescent microscope (IX81, Olympus America Inc, Center Valley, PA, USA) and a charge-coupled device camera (Hamamatsu Photonics, Hamamatsu, Japan). Images were analyzed with ImageJ (National Institutes of Health,

Bethesda, MD, USA) with background-corrected mean fluorescence taken from the middle 75% of the channel (Figure S2). Each replicate donor experiment was composed of multiple devices and conditions, and every individual clot was normalized to its peak platelet fluorescence intensity. Statistical analysis was done with Prism 8 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA, USA) and graphs were produced with MATLAB (MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA). The normalized data were compared between conditions using an unpaired t test at the specified time point. Data are presented as mean \pm SD; $P < .05$ was considered significant.

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Extended-channel-height device with buffer switch to investigate clot stability

Previously, a 60- μm -high 8-channel device had been used to investigate platelet function and coagulation in WB.²⁸⁻³¹ This height allows for ~ 500 seconds to investigate clotting under a constant flow regime but can lead to issues when switching to HBS to probe thrombus stability. Due to a large influx of platelets when the flow rate is

increased, a thrombus can reach occlusion and embolize very quickly (Figure 1A). The clot then embolizes, and it is difficult to continue the experiment. This embolism is not physiologically relevant since our microfluidic system is run under a constant flow regime, whereas the heart pumps blood through the circulatory system under a constant pressure regime. As a clot grows inside the channel, shear stresses increase until the forces grow so large that they shear off from the collagen surface.¹⁹ This type of analysis gives insight into the strength of platelet-collagen interactions, but we aim to explore platelet-platelet interactions, and therefore embolism is counter-productive to our goals. Due to donor-donor variation, occlusion is also variable (Figure S3), and the lower height limits the robustness of a shear-based stability assay. To remedy this, an extended height

(120 μm) 8-channel device was fabricated with the same 250 μm width. When compared to the 60- μm height, the occlusion time increased 3-fold (~ 500 s vs ~ 1500 s) for clots formed over collagen/TF surfaces (Figure 1C-E). The longer occlusion time allows for the probing of thrombus stability without the possibility of embolism during the switch to buffer (Figure 1B).

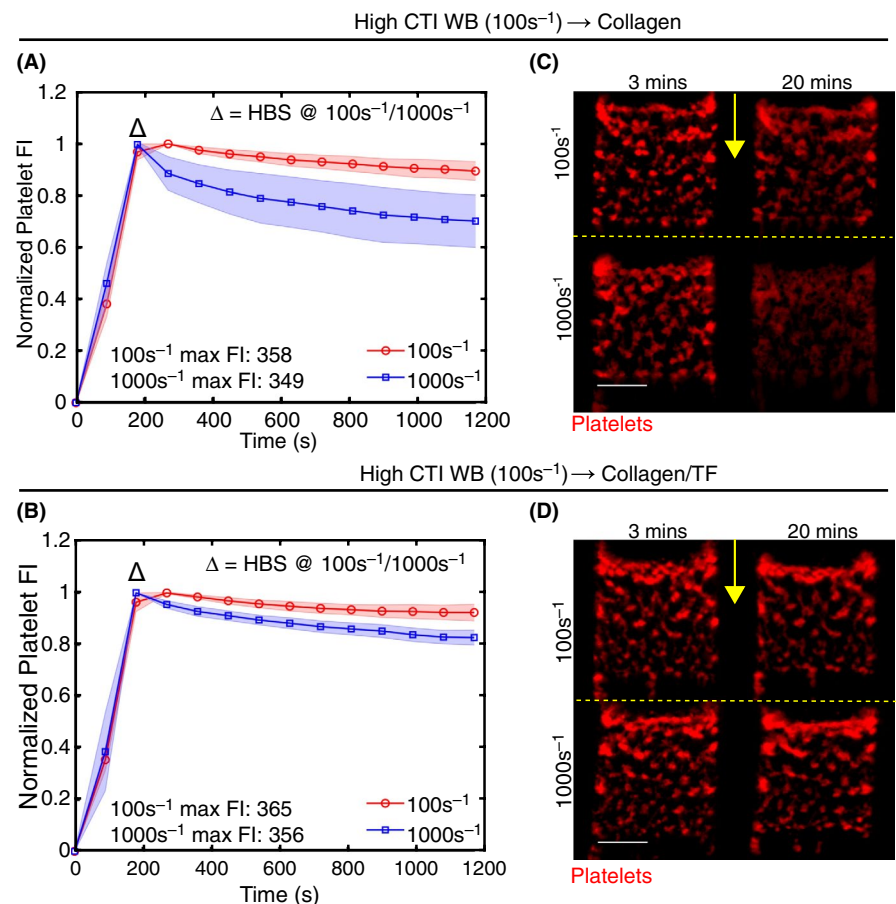
When comparing the new extended-height 8-channel device to the previously used device, we used COMSOL to determine a new flow rate to match shear rates between the 2 devices. However, there are a number of other key dimensional parameters that are affected by a change of height and flow rate. These are summarized in Table 1, with typical values seen in flow models of thrombus formation from the Scientific and Standardization Committee of ISTH.³³ The entrance length of the new device increased, but the location of the collagen/TF strip is more than 5 mm downstream of the well, and the Reynolds number has increased but still is squarely in the laminar regime. Both the aspect ratio and velocity have increased, and the relative channel height and injury size have decreased, but the growth curves in Figure 1 suggest that they have not significantly impacted thrombus formation. With all key parameters still within typical values and very similar thrombus dynamics as the 60- μm height, we proceeded with the extended-height 8-channel device to probe thrombus stability without the possibility of embolism.

With a repeatable approach for using buffer perfusion to explore clot erosion, the effect of increased shear rates was examined.

TABLE 1 Important parameters for microfluidic devices used for thrombus formation³³ for both a 60- μm and 120- μm channel height

Parameter	60 μm	120 μm	Typical values
Relative channel height	0.125	0.063	0.01-0.2
Aspect ratio	0.24	0.48	0.1-1
Relative injury size	4.17	2.08	0.1-10
Reynolds number	162	485	<2000 (laminar)
Entrance length (μm)	891	4479	1-1000

FIGURE 2 Perfusion of buffer over thrombi allows for the probing of stability and morphology in a shear-dependent manner. High-CTI WB at 100 s^{-1} was perfused over collagen or collagen/TF followed by switching to HBS (Δ) at either an initial shear rate of 100 s^{-1} (red) or 1000 s^{-1} (blue). A and B, Normalized platelet fluorescence intensity (FI) calculated by normalizing to the highest intensity obtained during the experiment. Data are expressed as mean \pm SD with $n = 12$ clots for 2 donors. C and D, Representative image of platelets in red at 3 minutes and 20 minutes. Scale bars are 100 μm . CTI, corn trypsin inhibitor; FI, fluorescence intensity; HBS, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline; TF, tissue factor; WB, whole blood



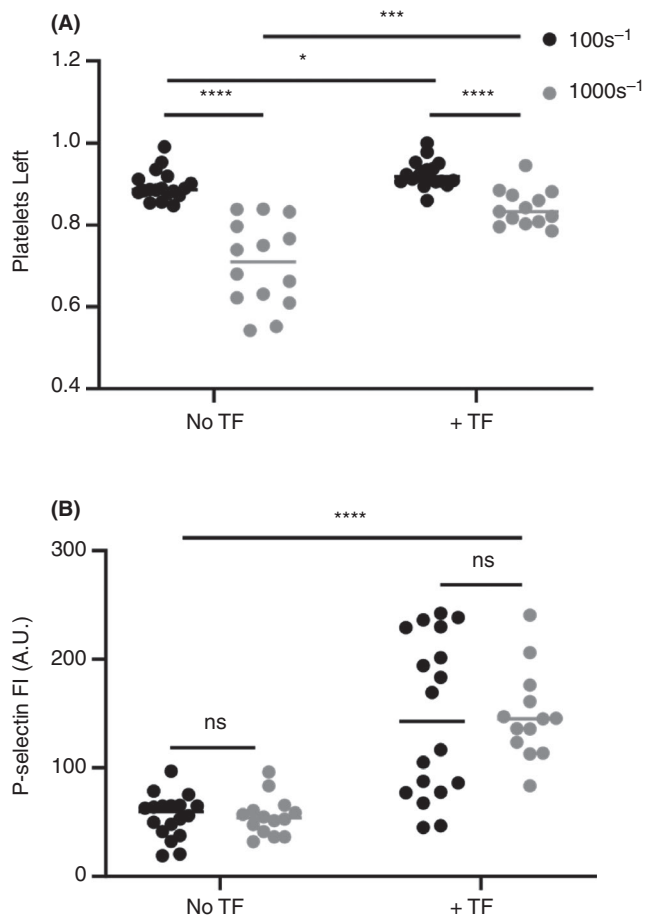


FIGURE 3 Tissue factor significantly increases clot stability and number of highly activated platelets at both low and high shear rates when absorbed to the collagen surface. A, Fraction of platelets left after 20 minutes for growth and shear conditions described in Figure 1. B, P-selectin FI after switching to buffer at 3 minutes for conditions described in Figure 1. Data are presented as mean \pm SD with $n = 12$ clots for 2 donors. *: $P < .05$. **: $P < .01$. ***: $P < .001$. ****: $P < .0001$. FI, fluorescence intensity; TF, tissue factor

High-CTI WB was perfused over either collagen (Figure 2A, C) or collagen/TF (Figure 2B, D) at 100 s^{-1} initial wall shear rate, followed by switching to HBS (indicated by Δ) at the same initial shear rate (red/black) or increasing to 1000 s^{-1} (blue/light gray). There were no differences in platelet fluorescent intensity between TF and no TF conditions for both buffer perfusion wall shear rates of 100 s^{-1} ($P = .81$) and 1000 s^{-1} ($P = .81$) during the growth period. A higher shear rate resulted in fewer platelets remaining in both the presence and absence of TF and therefore thrombin. Within + TF and no TF conditions, increasing the shear rate of the buffer significantly decreased the number of platelets (Figure 3A; $P < .0001$). The inclusion of TF on the collagen surface increased the magnitude of the normalized fluorescence intensity left at both low shear rates (93% vs 89%; $P < .05$) and high shear rates (84% vs 70%; $P < .001$). The fluorescence intensity of P-selectin was measured for both conditions (Figure 3B). TF significantly increased P-selectin-positive platelets compared to no TF ($P < .0001$). There was no difference between

100 s^{-1} and 1000 s^{-1} conditions since their growth conditions were identical. These results suggest that thrombin plays an important role in stability through the activation of platelets, and higher shear rates caused greater erosion, as expected.

3.2 | Thrombin, but not fibrin inhibition, lowers the stability of thrombi

To further examine the role of thrombin on stability, either PPACK ($100 \mu\text{M}$, red/dark gray) to inhibit thrombin or GPRP (5 mM , blue/light gray) to inhibit fibrin but not thrombin was added to high-CTI WB for the growth period with a switch to buffer and increase in shear occurring at 180 seconds. For all conditions, platelet fluorescence intensities were the same at the end of the growth period ($P = .11$ for GPRP vs PPACK; $P = .20$ for control vs PPACK; $P = .65$ for control vs GPRP). The inhibition of thrombin production resulted in fewer platelets remaining at the end of the experiment when compared to both the control condition and GPRP condition ($P < .0001$; Figures 4A, 5A), which agrees with the data in Figure 3A. When thrombin but not fibrin was present, the same number of platelets were left in comparison to the control ($P = .79$). This suggests that fibrin may not play a significant role in stability in this assay and that fibrin resides in the core, which is always shear resistant. Even though the overall platelet intensity decreased when subjected to buffer, P-selectin fluorescence intensity did not. This suggests highly activated P-selectin positive platelets are more stable than less activated P-selectin negative platelets. P-selectin fluorescence intensity is significantly different among each of the 3 conditions ($P < .0001$; Figure 5B). Both PPACK and GPRP inhibit all fibrin formation at the concentrations used, whereas fibrin is present in the control condition (Figure 5C). Overall, these data demonstrate that the core region of a thrombus is stable when subjected to increased shear. Thrombin is a key activator of platelets, and the decreased stability in the PPACK condition that lowers P-selectin intensity can lead to more platelet erosion.

3.3 | Secondary agonists are crucial for stability of the shell region

To further explore the stability of the shell region, ASA ($50 \mu\text{M}$, red) was added to PPACK WB and incubated for 10 minutes before perfusion. ASA irreversibly blocks the formation of TxA_2 . During the growth period, ASA limited P-selectin positive platelets ($P < .001$), but not total number of platelets ($P = .35$; Figure 6A, B). When subjected to increased shear and buffer, the ASA-treated thrombus eroded more than the control condition. At the end of the experiment, only 40% of the clot that was treated with ASA remained versus 65% of the control condition ($P < .001$; Figure 6A). However, P-selectin positive platelets did not erode during the shear period (Figure 6B). This further supports that the core region is stable when subjected to high shear rates.

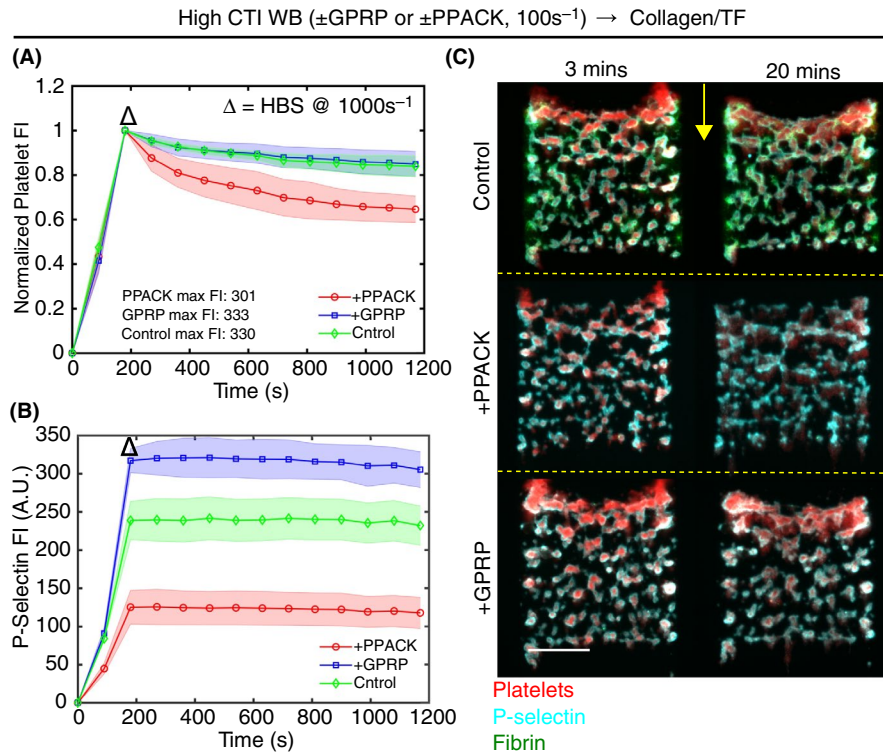


FIGURE 4 Thrombin inhibition, but not fibrin inhibition, decreases overall thrombus stability, while the core remains stable under all conditions. High-CTI WB (\pm GPRP/PPACK) was perfused over collagen/TF at 100 s^{-1} followed by HBS at 1000 s^{-1} (Δ). A, Normalized platelet FI of PPACK condition (red), GPRP condition (blue), and control (green) normalized to the FI at 3 minutes. B, P-selectin FI for blood treated with PPACK (red), GPRP (blue), or untreated (red) labeled with AF647 anti-CD62P. Data are expressed as mean \pm SD with $n \geq 12$ clots for 3 donors for each condition. C, Representative images of clots at 3 minutes and 20 minutes with platelets in red, P-selectin positive platelets in cyan, and overlapping region in white. Scale bar is $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. CTI, corn trypsin inhibitor; FI, fluorescence intensity; GPRP, H-Gly-Pro-Arg-Pro-OH acetate salt; HBS, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline; PPACK, D-Phe-Pro-Arg-CMK; TF, tissue factor; WB, whole blood

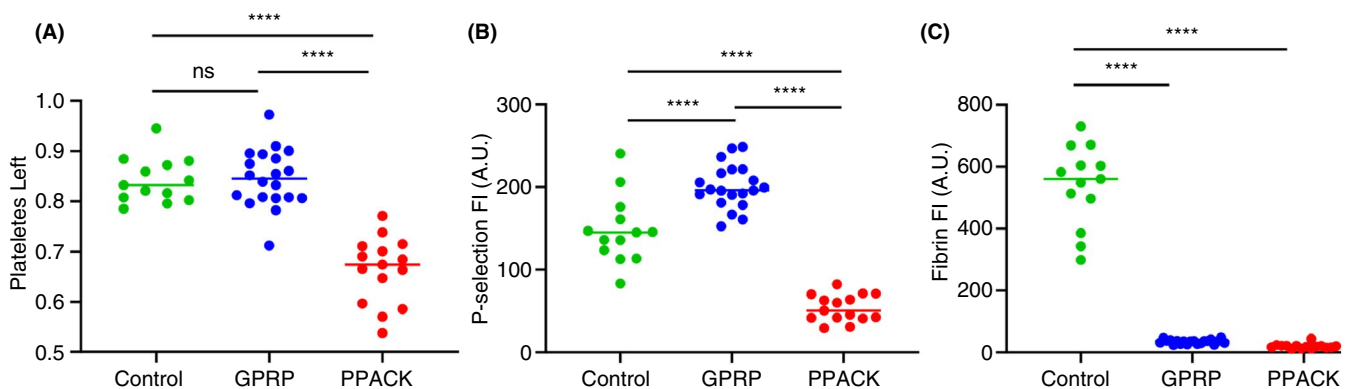


FIGURE 5 Inhibiting thrombin production decreases the number of platelets left at the end of the experiment by limiting core size. A, Fraction of platelets left after 20 minutes for growth and shear conditions described in Figure 4. B, P-selectin FI at 3 minutes for conditions described in Figure 4. C, Fibrin FI at 3 minutes for conditions described in Figure 4. Data are presented as mean \pm SD with $n \geq 12$ clots for 3 donors. *: $P < .05$. **: $P < .01$. ***: $P < .001$. ****: $P < .0001$. FI, fluorescence intensity; GPRP, H-Gly-Pro-Arg-Pro-OH acetate salt; HBS, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline; PPACK, D-Phe-Pro-Arg-CMK

To inhibit ADP responses, MRS-2179 ($100\text{ }\mu\text{M}$, red) was added to PPACK WB to antagonize P2Y1 and prevent ADP binding. P2Y1 antagonism lowers both platelets and P-selectin positive platelets during the growth period similarly to TxA_2 inhibition (Figure 7A, B; $P < .001$). After switching to buffer, the MRS-2179-treated platelets

were more likely to come off the thrombus compared to the control, with P-selectin positive platelets being stable in both conditions. These data, combined with the ASA data, demonstrate that treating platelets with soluble agonist inhibitors lowers thrombus growth and increases shell platelet erosion when subjected to shear.

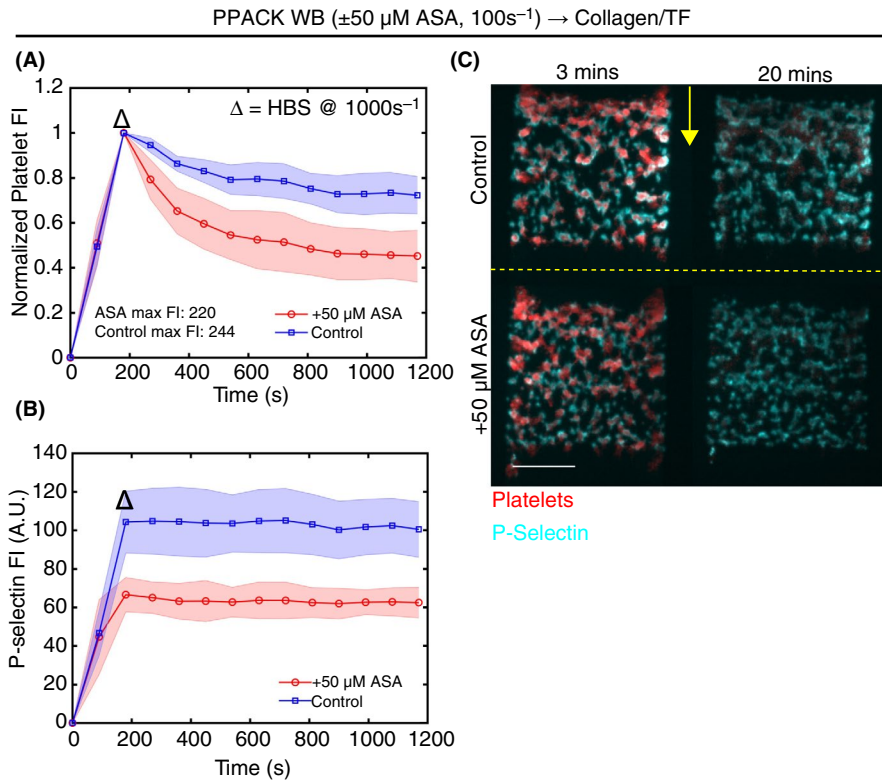


FIGURE 6 ASA lowered initial platelet deposition and decreased the stability of shell platelets when subjected to shear. PPACK WB $\pm 50 \mu\text{M ASA}$ incubated for 5 minutes before perfusion was perfused over collagen/TF at 100s^{-1} followed by HBS at 1000s^{-1} (Δ). A, Normalized platelet FI normalized for ASA-treated blood (red) and control condition (blue). B, P-Selectin FI for blood treated with ASA (red) or not treated (blue). Data are expressed as mean \pm SD with $n = 11$ clots for 3 donors. C, Representative images of clots with platelets in red and P-selectin positive platelets in cyan. Scale bar is 100 μm . ASA, acetylsalicylic acid; FI, fluorescence intensity; HBS, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline; PPACK, D-Phe-Pro-Arg-CMK; TF, tissue factor; WB, whole blood

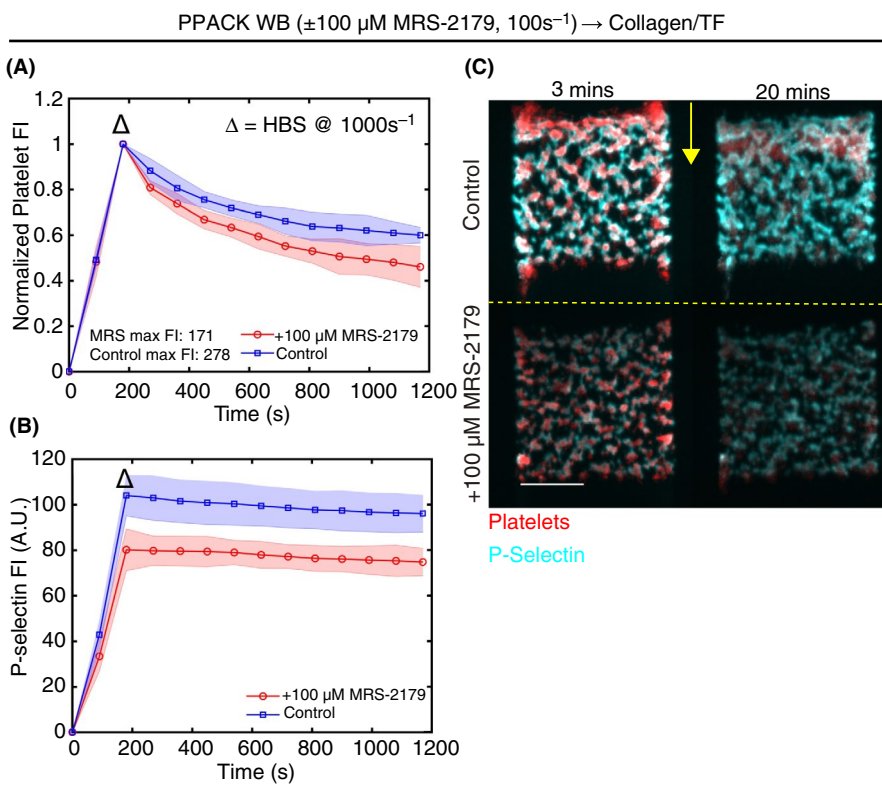


FIGURE 7 A P2Y1 inhibitor lowered initial platelet deposition and decreased stability of shell platelets when subjected to shear. PPACK WB $\pm 100\text{-}\mu\text{M MRS-2179}$ was perfused over collagen/TF at 100s^{-1} followed by HBS at 1000s^{-1} (Δ). A, Normalized platelet FI for treated blood (red) and control condition (blue). B, P-selectin FI for treated blood (red) or not treated (blue). Data are expressed as mean \pm SD with $n = 12$ clots for 3 donors. C, Representative images of clots with platelets in red and P-selectin-positive platelets in cyan. Scale bar is 100 μm . ASA, acetylsalicylic acid; FI, fluorescence intensity; HBS, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid-buffered saline; PPACK, D-Phe-Pro-Arg-CMK; TF, tissue factor; WB, whole blood

4 | DISCUSSION

To study the contribution of the spatiotemporal heterogeneity of clotting mechanisms to thrombus stability, we developed a 2-part

microfluidic assay that utilizes an extended height 8-channel device. Computational flow dynamic simulations indicate a relatively uniform shear rate for this geometry (Figure S2). This is further demonstrated by the similarity of thrombus growth dynamics when

compared to the 60- μm height before occlusion. By increasing the channel height of the 8-channel and adjusting the flow rates to preserve dynamics, the modified device allows for a longer time period to study thrombus morphology and stability.

As clot formation proceeds, there is a temporal distribution of various agonists. Early on, thrombin and collagen drive platelet activation and clot growth, and at later time points, secondary agonists ADP and TxA_2 play a larger role. One of the key benefits of this assay is that swapping in buffer stops coagulation and platelet deposition and allows for probing of the structure of the clot at a particular time point. Data presented in this paper used thrombi that have formed for 180 seconds, but the switch can occur at a variety of different time points without occlusion (Figure S5).

Previous research has shown that fibrin plays a key role in governing stability,¹⁹ but clots formed in the presence of GPRP to block fibrin formation were as stable as clots formed without GPRP present in this assay. Since the P-selectin signal was constant, core platelets did not erode, and therefore only shell platelets were affected by shear. This suggests that fibrin is present only in the core. Furthermore, inhibition of thrombin decreased P-selectin fluorescence intensity and led to more platelet erosion most likely due to less overall platelet activation. GPRP increased P-selectin fluorescence intensity most likely as a result of larger thrombin generation.^{34,35} However, platelet erosion was not affected suggesting that more than just P-selectin expression governs stability.

The core/shell model suggests that outside of the P-selectin positive region, very little to no thrombin is present. In this outer region, ADP and TxA_2 regulate platelet activation once they are produced by platelets resulting in secondary activation. The data with secondary agonist inhibitors further supports this conclusion. Secondary agonists contribute somewhat to core formation and α -granule release but not as significantly as thrombin. Both inhibitors lowered P-selectin expression further supporting that less P-selectin leads to more platelet erosion. However, ASA-treated blood did not significantly affect total platelet fluorescence intensity whereas MRS-2179-treated blood did. Even though the fraction of platelets left for both inhibitors are similar, ASA-treated blood had more initial platelet deposition, and therefore more platelets eroded. This suggests that TxA_2 production plays a crucial role in stabilizing shell platelets, and ADP may be more important for initial platelet aggregation. Overall, secondary agonists help stabilize platelets in the shell region that are more likely to be sheared off.

In summary, we demonstrate a new 2-part microfluidic assay using an extended-height 8-channel microfluidic device that allows for precise control of thrombus growth conditions followed by increased shear rates to examine stability and morphology.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MED and SLD designed the experiments. MED conducted the experiments. MED, SLD, and LFB analyzed and interpreted data and wrote the manuscript.

RELATIONSHIP DISCLOSURE

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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