

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) & Pulmonary Embolism (PE)

The risks from surgery

Factors that increase risk of DVT/PE:

- Birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy
- Pregnancy or recent childbirth (past 6 weeks)
- Overweight/obesity
- Inactivity
- Prolonged bed rest
- Cancer patients
- Recent injury, surgery, or fracture
- Family or patient history of DVT/PE
- Age greater than 40
- Autoimmune disorders (eg. Lupus)
- Genetic coagulation disorders
- Varicose veins
- Heart or respiratory failure
- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBS)
- Long plane flight or car ride (after surgical procedure)
- Smoking
- Central venous catheterization (central line)

Signs and symptoms of DVT/PE

- Pain and swelling of the lower extremity
- Skin warmth or redness
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- Fainting or feeling light-headed
- Feelings of anxiety or restlessness
- Rapid pulse
- Shortness of breath
- Sweating

Symptoms are not present in as many as 50% of DVT cases.

If any of these symptoms develop

- Notify the physician immediately
- Proceed to the Emergency Room immediately
- ***DVT/PE's are life threatening conditions and must be treated immediately.***
- Delayed treatment can result in death
- Your physician may order a D-dimer blood test and/or a Venus Doppler Ultrasound of the lower extremity if there is any suspicion of a DVT at all. ***This is for your safety!***
- Please notify your physician if you have a history of blood clots before undergoing a surgical procedure so appropriate measures may be taken.



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