

Surgical VTE Prophylaxis Guide

For ALL patients undergoing surgery or when surgery is imminent

STEP 1

Assess Patient Risk

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- Hip or knee arthroplasty
- Major trauma
- Hip fracture surgery
- Other surgery with prior VTE and/or active cancer
- Major surgery* age > 40 years

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- All other surgery

STEP 2

Assess for Anticoagulant Prophylaxis

Are there any contraindications to anticoagulant prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Prescribe: enoxaparin 40mg daily or dalteparin 5000U daily or for orthopaedic surgery fondaparinux 2.5mg daily (commence 6-8 hrs post-op)
Duration 5-10 days EXCEPT 28-35 days for hip arthroplasty

No anticoagulant

Are there any contraindications to anticoagulant prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Prescribe: enoxaparin 40mg daily or dalteparin 5000U daily or LDUH 5000 TDS or for hip fracture surgery fondaparinux 2.5mg daily (commence 6-8 hrs post-op)
Duration 5-10 days EXCEPT 28-35 days for hip fracture surgery

No anticoagulant

Are there any contraindications to anticoagulant prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Prescribe: enoxaparin 20mg daily or dalteparin 2500U daily or LDUH 5000 BD or TDS
Duration 5-10 days

No anticoagulant

Are there any contraindications to anticoagulant prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Consider LMWH or LDUH if additional risk factors †
Duration until hospital discharge

No anticoagulant

STEP 3

Assess Mechanical Prophylaxis

Are there any contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Apply IPC and/or GCS

Observe closely for VTE

Are there any contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Apply GCS and/or IPC

Observe closely for VTE

Are there any contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Apply GCS and/or IPC

Observe closely for VTE

Are there any contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis? (see below)

NO
YES

Consider GCS

Observe closely for VTE

*Major surgery: intra-abdominal surgery or any surgery > 45 minutes duration

† Additional VTE Risk Factors
immobility, thrombophilia, oestrogen therapy, pregnancy or puerperium, active inflammation, strong family history of VTE and/or obesity.

Contraindications to anticoagulant prophylaxis
Active bleeding / high risk of bleeding eg. haemophilia, thrombocytopenia (platelet count <50 x 10⁹/L), history of GI bleeding
Severe hepatic disease (INR > 1.3) / adverse reaction to heparin
On current anticoagulation
Other eg. very high falls risk and palliative management
Renal impairment with LMWH - see manufacturer's product information

Contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis
Severe peripheral arterial disease: Recent skin graft
Severe peripheral neuropathy: Severe leg deformity

LMWH - Low Molecular Weight Heparin
LDUH - Low Dose Unfractionated Heparin
GCS - Graduated Compression Stockings
IPC - Intermittent Pneumatic Compression
VTE - Venous Thromboembolism