

Deep Vein Thrombosis Prevention in Post-operative Patient

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to determine in postoperative patients what was the effect of compression devices in comparison to prophylactic use of anticoagulants in the prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT). The method used was a literature review of risk factors contributing to likelihood of DVT and current methods of prevention.

Prevention methods that were analyzed included compression devices applied to lower extremities and anticoagulants including: Heparin, Lovenox, and Xarelto. All are excellent methods of prevention of DVT, however prophylactic use of anticoagulants comes with high bleeding risks and both methods are highly dependent on patient compliance. It is recommended that patients be screened thoroughly by using a risk assessment tool to determine likelihood for contracting a DVT before being placed on any preventative measures.

Keywords: deep vein thrombosis (DVT), post-operative complications, prophylactic use of anticoagulants, compression device, Heparin, Lovenox (enoxaparin), Xarelto (rivaroxaban), venous thromboembolism (VTE), pulmonary embolism (PE), nursing considerations