

Emergency Assessment Unit

About the Thrombosis Treatment Team

The Thrombosis Treatment Team is a nurse led service specialising in the assessment of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and outpatient treatment of DVT and pulmonary embolism (PE). **There are four nurse specialists in the team:**

Annie Davenport
Ann Taylor

Caroline Lewis
Gill O'Brien

Information for patients diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

DVT is the formation of a blood clot in a deep vein, most commonly in the leg but it can also occur in the arm.

After diagnosis, you will be taken to the Emergency Assessment Unit where you will be examined by a doctor. This may include further blood tests, chest x-ray and any other investigations the doctor considers necessary. You will need to wait for the results of these tests before a final decision can be made about your treatment.

During this time the Thrombosis Treatment Team will follow your progress. Most patients are discharged home the same day as diagnosis and treatment is continued as an outpatient. You will need to return to the Thrombosis Treatment Team for daily blood tests for an average of five to six days. The clinic is situated on EAU 3; appointment times will be arranged on an individual basis and will last only a few minutes.

Why do I need treatment for a deep vein thrombosis?

DVT needs treatment to prevent:

- The clot becoming larger
- The clot breaking loose and travelling to the lungs
- New clots from forming
- Post thrombotic syndrome

Treatment

The usual treatment for DVT is with anticoagulant drugs such as heparin and warfarin. Anticoagulant drugs are used to prevent blood clotting.

- Heparin is given daily as an injection under the skin into the stomach area for an average of five days. The dose is calculated according to your body weight and the first dose will be given before you leave the hospital.
- Warfarin is taken daily as tablets. The dose required differs from person to person and it takes some days to build up in the bloodstream to an effective level. Daily blood tests are taken to monitor the effect it is having on your clotting system. These tests will become less frequent as your anticoagulant therapy becomes stable. The aim is to get the dose of warfarin just right so the blood will not clot easily, but not too much which may cause bleeding problems. The length of warfarin treatment will be decided by the anticoagulation service once treatment is established.
- You may also be advised to wear graduated compression stockings. The thrombosis nurse will fit these for all suitable patients. This will be discussed further when we see you in the clinic. There is a prescription charge of £14.20 for a pair of stockings.

The investigations carried out today may take some time to complete. Please understand that it is important for you to have a full medical check up before anticoagulation treatment is started.



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Polish

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Portuguese

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Russian

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Cantonese

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Turkish

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Bengali

Document history

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