

### Clinic 5A

TTSH Medical Centre, Level 5

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## Department of GENERAL MEDICINE

# Deep Vein Thrombosis



## Treatment:

### Blood Thinning Medications (Anticoagulants)

- First line treatment for DVT and PE
- Available in tablet or injectable form
- These medications stop the clot from growing, allowing the body to break down the clot naturally.

**Note:** Follow your doctor's advice strictly, as these medications increase bleeding risk and need close monitoring.

### Other Treatment Options:

Your doctor may recommend the following treatments where necessary:

- 1) **Thrombolysis and thrombectomy:** In severe cases, clot-dissolving medications or procedures can be used to dissolve clots and restore the blood flow rapidly.
- 2) **Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) filter placement:** If blood thinners are not suitable for you, a filter can be placed in a large vein in your abdomen to prevent blood clots from travelling to the blood vessels in the lungs.

### How to Prevent DVT?

- Quit smoking
- Exercise regularly and maintain a healthy weight
- Avoid sitting for long periods of time
- Keep well hydrated

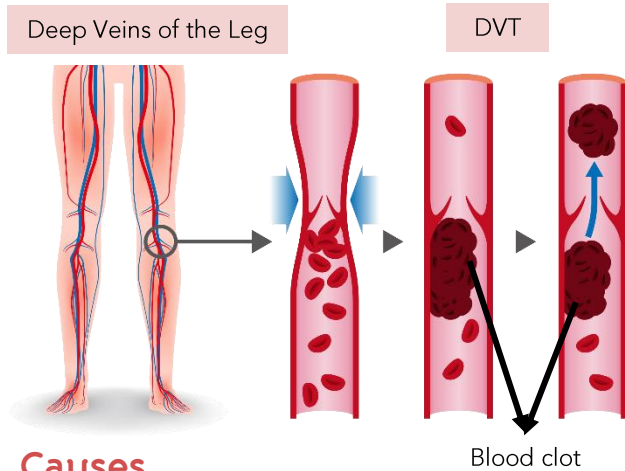
### For Hospitalised Patients:

- You may be prescribed prophylactic medication or other treatments such as calf pumps or compression stockings if you have certain risk factors



## What is Deep Vein Thrombosis?

**Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)** occurs when a blood clot forms in a deep vein, usually in the legs, but it can also occur in veins in other parts of the body.



### Causes

Blood clots in the veins can develop from:

- Reduced blood flow** caused by prolonged periods of immobility or bedrest
- Vein damage:** injuries to the walls of the veins that may result from injury or surgery
- Blood changes:** Conditions that make the blood thick and prone to clotting. (refer to risk factors)

### Symptoms

Some people with DVT may not show any symptoms. Typical symptoms of DVT include:

- Swelling of your leg or arm
- Pain or tenderness in your leg or arm
- Warmth or redness in your affected leg or arm

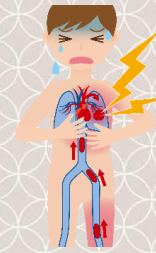
## Dangers of DVT

While DVT is not immediately life-threatening, it can lead to serious complications:

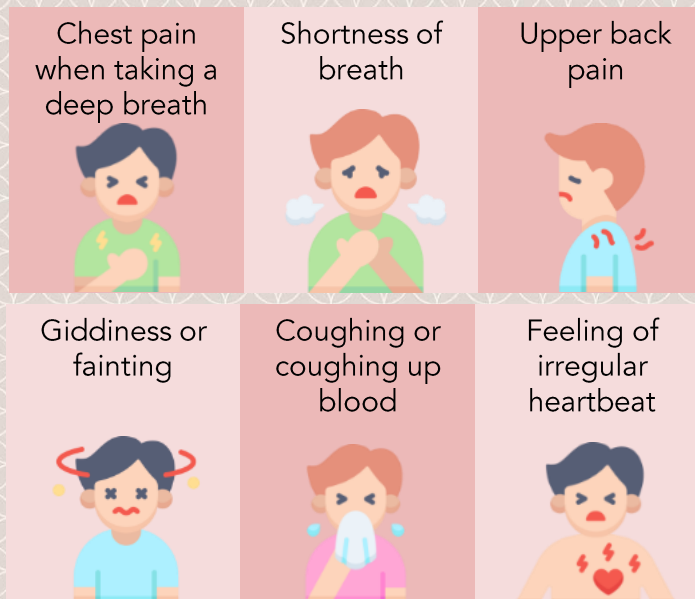
- Pulmonary Embolism (PE):** This occurs when a blood clot in the deep vein breaks off, travels to and gets lodged in an artery in the lung, blocking blood flow and affecting lung and heart function. PE can be life-threatening.
- Post-thrombotic Syndrome:** A long-term condition of persistent swelling, skin discoloration and leg ulcers that results from damage to the vein caused by DVT.

### Pulmonary Embolism (PE)

Diagnosed with a CT pulmonary angiogram



### Typical Symptoms of PE Include:



## How is DVT Diagnosed?

After a medical history and physical examination, your doctor might perform tests such as:

**Doppler Ultrasound:** A scan to detect clots by checking blood flow in the veins, commonly used for DVT diagnosis.

**D-dimer Test:** This is blood test for a substance in the blood that is increased when DVT or PE occurs. A negative result usually means no DVT.

## Who is at Risk of DVT?

DVT is more likely to occur in adults aged 60 years and older, but it can affect individuals of any age. Specific risk factors can increase the likelihood of the disease, which include the following:

