

## Key Terms: Thrombosis

- **Thrombosis:** The formation of a blood clot in a blood vessel. The vessel may be any vein or artery as for example, in a deep vein thrombosis (venous) or a coronary artery (arterial). The clot itself is termed a thrombus.
- **Deep vein thrombosis (DVT):** A blood clot that forms in a deep vein, usually the leg, groin or arm.
- **Pulmonary embolism (PE):** A blood clot that occurs when a DVT breaks free from a vein wall and travels to the lungs blocking some or all of the blood supply. A PE can often be fatal.
- **Venous Thromboembolism (VTE):** A condition in which a blood clot forms most often in the deep veins of the leg, groin or arm, known as a DVT, and travels in the circulation, lodging in the lungs, known as a PE. Together, DVT and PE are known as VTE - a dangerous, potentially deadly medical condition.
  - **DVT + PE = VTE:** DVT and PE are collectively referred to as VTE.
- **Prophylaxis:** Prophylaxis is a preventive measure taken to maintain health and prevent the spread of disease (often used interchangeably with thromboprophylaxis).
- **Thromboprophylaxis:** Any preventive measure or medication that reduces the likelihood of the formation of blood clots.
- **Prophylactic therapy:** A medication or a treatment designed and used to prevent a disease from occurring.
- **Anticoagulation:** Medicines that help prevent blood clots. They're given to people at a high risk of getting clots, to reduce their chances of developing serious conditions such as DVT, PE, VTE, strokes and heart attacks.
- **Hypercoagulability:** A state or condition marked by an increased tendency to form blood clots within a blood vessel.
- **Coagulopathy:** A disease or condition affecting the blood's ability to coagulate or clot.
- **D-Dimer Test:** A diagnostic test that measures the amount of a protein called "fibrin D-dimer" in the blood. A D-dimer blood test can be useful in detecting whether or not an unusual degree of blood clotting is happening somewhere in the body. While the D-dimer test is useful in evaluating a variety of medical conditions, it is most often helpful when trying to decide whether a pulmonary embolus or deep vein thrombosis are present.
  - **Fibrinogen also known as Fibrin:** - A protein involved in forming blood clots in the body. Blood clotting is an extremely complex process. It involves the activation of a series of circulating proteins (called the coagulation factors, or clotting factors) that eventually produce long strands of fibrin. The "finished" blood clot is made up mainly of a tangle of fibrin strands, together with blood platelets that become trapped within the fibrin mass.

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- **Factor VIII:** Factor eight, a key factor in the process of blood coagulation (clotting). Lack of normal factor VIII causes hemophilia (hemophilia A)
- **Thromboplastin:** An enzyme released from damaged cells, especially platelets, which converts prothrombin to thrombin during the early stages of blood coagulation.
- **Cytokine storm:** A severe immune reaction in which the body releases too many cytokines into the blood too quickly. Cytokines play an important role in normal immune responses, but having a large amount of them released in the body all at once can be harmful. A cytokine storm can occur as a result of an infection such as COVID-19, autoimmune condition, or other disease. It may also occur after treatment with some types of immunotherapy. Signs and symptoms include high fever, inflammation (redness and swelling), and severe fatigue and nausea. Sometimes, a cytokine storm may be severe or life threatening and lead to multiple organ failure. Also called hypercytokinemia.
- **Microthrombus:** A very small thrombus or blood clot.

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