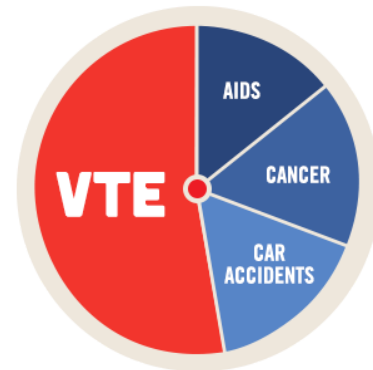


# Venous thromboembolism (VTE)

Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) is a condition in which a blood clot forms most often in the deep veins of the leg, groin or arm (known as deep vein thrombosis, DVT). These can travel in the circulation, lodging in the lungs (known as pulmonary embolism, PE). Together, DVT and PE are known as VTE — a dangerous, potentially deadly medical condition.



Research shows that VTE causes more deaths than AIDS, motor vehicle collisions and breast cancer combined

VTE can occur without any warning signs or symptoms and can go unrecognized and undiagnosed by a healthcare professional. Symptoms that do appear may be associated with either a DVT or a PE.

VTE does not discriminate. It affects people of all ages, races and ethnicities, and occurs in both men and women. Certain factors and situations can increase the risk of developing potentially deadly blood clots.

Most hospital-associated VTEs are preventable, and evidence-based prevention strategies are used in hospitals in 'at-risk' individuals.

To identify whether a patient is 'at-risk,' healthcare professionals conduct a VTE risk assessment, which is a questionnaire that lists all the risk factors for VTE and asks for information about a patient's age, medical history, medications. This information is then used to decide a patient's potential risk (e.g., high, moderate or low risk) for developing hospital-associated VTE. In order to prevent hospital-associated VTE small doses of blood thinners and/or leg compression devices are used.

If you are admitted to a hospital, be proactive and ask for a VTE risk assessment and if you know you are at risk then ask what prevention is being used.

What is a VTE risk assessment? Keep reading!