



Thrombosis Canada



Thrombose Canada

You Have an Arm DVT

Deep Vein Thrombosis

What is an arm DVT?

An arm DVT is a blood clot in the deep vein of the arm.

Why are arm DVTs important?

They can cause short term and long term swelling and pain in the arm. Rarely they can travel to the lung (pulmonary embolism) which may cause death.

What can cause an arm DVT?

The most common cause is an intravenous (IV) catheter or pacemaker wire in one of the veins of the arm or neck.

The big vein from the arm may get pinched as it goes into the chest – this may be associated with strenuous activity or if the space where the vein goes into the chest is small (thoracic outlet syndrome).

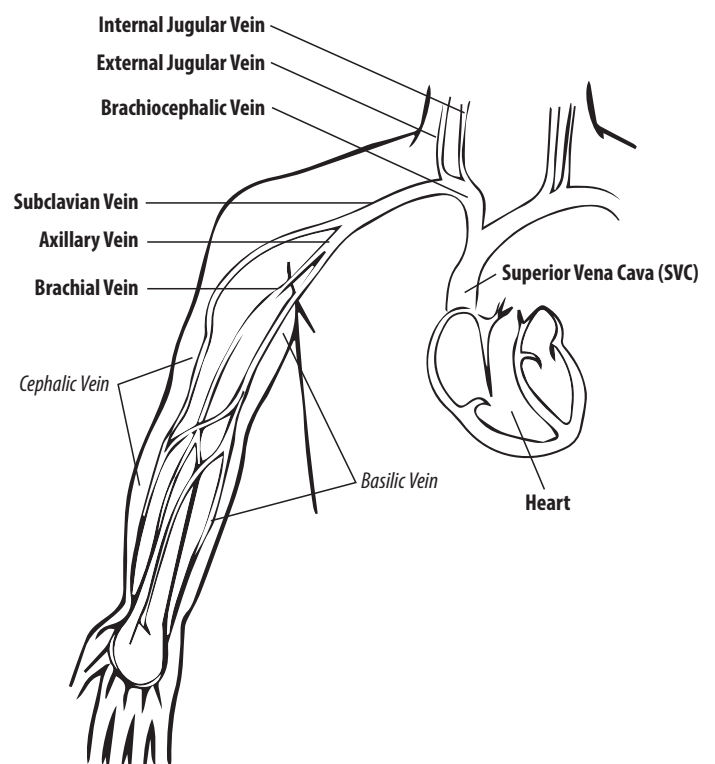
Ask your doctor about other risk factors for arm DVT.

Treatment

- Arm DVT is treated with anticoagulants (“blood thinners”)
- May be pills or injections
- How long you are on treatment will depend on your risk of another blood clot and your risk of bleeding
- If you have an intravenous catheter as the cause for your DVT, treatment duration varies from until after the catheter is removed or for at least 3 months
- Main side effect is bleeding:
 - Minor (nose/gum bleeds, bruising)
 - Major (coughing blood, blood in vomit, urine or stool, black stool)

What are symptoms of an arm DVT?

- Swelling of one arm
- Pain along the inner arm
- Redness and warmth of the affected arm
- More noticeable/enlarged blood vessels under the skin of the upper arm and chest



Take Away Message

- The cause of arm DVT is usually known
- Anticoagulant treatment should be taken regularly the way your doctor tells you
- Tell your doctor if you have new symptoms of blood clot or major bleeding



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