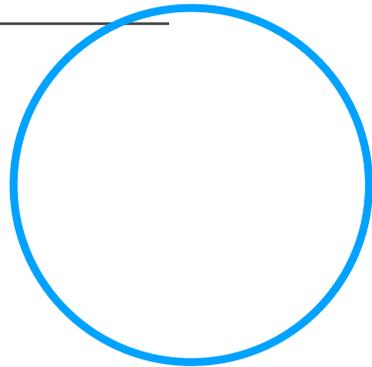


Medical Therapies

CHAPTER 32





CONTROLLING RISK FACTORS

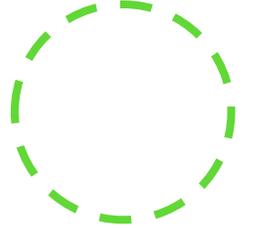
- ❖ All risk factors fall into one of three categories associated with Virchow's triad:
 - ❖ Venous Stasis
 - ❖ Trauma/Endothelial damage
 - ❖ Hypercoagulability
- 



CONTROLLING RISK FACTORS

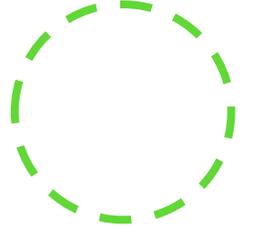


- ❖ Decreasing venous stasis by:
 - ❖ Leg elevation
 - ❖ Support stockings
 - ❖ Pneumatic compression devices
 - ❖ Weight management
- ❖ Education on hypercoagulable factors
- ❖ Reduce trauma and infection risk of the extremity



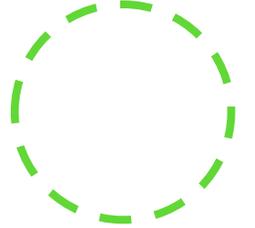
ANTICOAGULANTS

- ❖ Interferes with the formation of blood clots;
does not dissolve thrombus
- ❖ Prophylactic use – following procedures,
bridges patient to long-term anticoagulation use
 - ❖ Heparin
 - ❖ Lovenox
 - ❖ Pradaxa
 - ❖ Xarelto



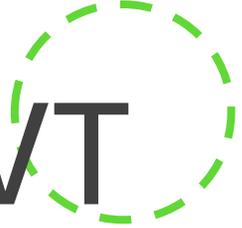
ANTICOAGULANTS

- ❖ Therapeutic use – following diagnosis of an acute DVT or PE; dosed for the patient so the partial thromboplastin time exceeds 1.5-2 times normal
 - Pt may be on anticoagulants for 3-6 months
- ❖ Heparin decreases platelet adhesiveness and interferes with blood clot formation
- ❖ Helps to prevent propagation of the clot, but does not lyse the clot



ANTICOAGULANTS

- ❖ Warfarin (Coumadin) may be overlapped with the heparin in patients with DVT
 - ❖ Heparin can be discontinued after a few days once the warfarin is administered daily
 - ❖ Blood levels will need to be monitored routinely while patient is only warfarin
- 



OTHER TREATMENTS FOR DVT



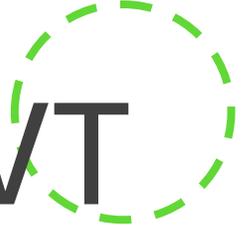
❖ Antiplatelet agents:

- ❖ Prohibits platelet aggregation to prevent thrombus formation

- ❖ Aspirin, anti-inflammatory drugs

- ❖ Contraindicated in patients with stomach ulcers or those who are pregnant

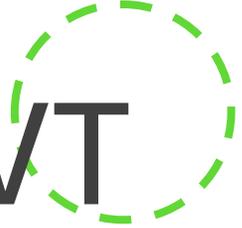
- ❖ Daily aspirin regimen is common to prevent or lessen heart attacks



OTHER TREATMENTS FOR DVT

❖ Thrombolytic therapy:

- ❖ Used to break down (dissolve) the existing clot (thrombolysis)
 - ❖ Streptokinase, Urokinase
- ❖ Bleeding complications are a major risk factor
- ❖ Does not prevent re-thrombosis following thrombolysis, anti-coagulants will be co-administered with thrombolytic agents



OTHER TREATMENTS FOR DVT



IVC Filters:

- ❖ Used in patients who are not candidates for anticoagulation therapy
- ❖ Filter is placed just below the renal veins



Surgery:

- ❖ Used mainly for venous insufficiency
- ❖ Thrombectomy performed in patients with impending limb loss if thrombolytic therapy does not dissolve the clot