

What Is Pulmonary Embolism ?



Definition



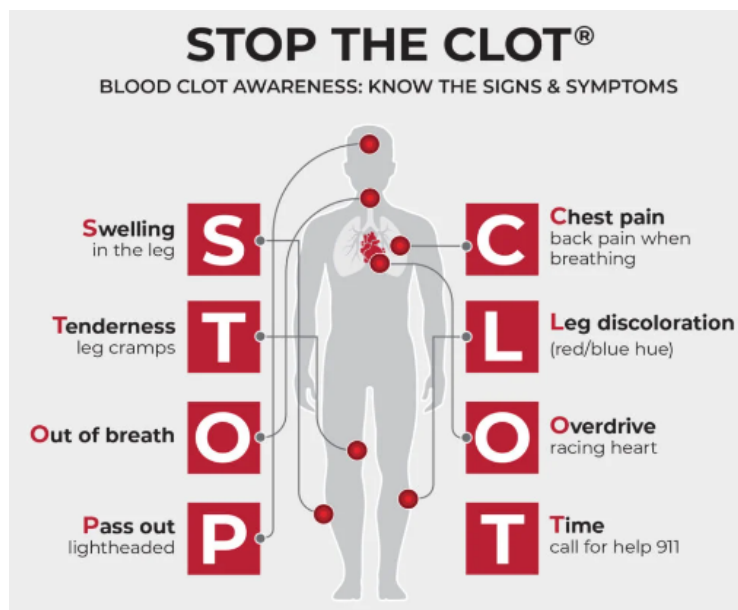
What Is Pulmonary Embolism ?

Pulmonary embolism (PE) is a the formation of blood clot inside one of the blood vessels of the lungs. This happens when a clot in another part of the body (90% leg) moves through the veins to the arteries of the lung. A PE restricts blood flow to the lungs, lowers oxygen levels in the lungs and increases blood pressure in the pulmonary arteries.

Symptoms



What Is Pulmonary Embolism Presentations ?



Risk Factors

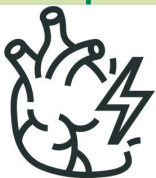


What Are The Risk Factors For Pulmonary Embolism ?

Venous blood clot or deep vein thrombosis (DVT).
Inactivity for period of time while travelling.
Recently had trauma or injury to a vein, possibly from surgery, fracture or varicose veins.
Using hormonal-based contraception (birth control pill) or hormone replacement therapy.
History of heart failure, heart attack or stroke.
Pregnancy or had given birth in the previous six weeks.

Received a central venous catheter through their arm or leg.
Family history of blood clots.
Currently smoke.
Diabetes.
Cancer or chemotherapy.
Older than 60.
Obesity (a BMI greater than 30).

Consequence



Consequences Of Pulmonary Embolism ?

Cyanosis.
 Heart attack.
 Stroke.
 Pulmonary hypertension.
 Cardiogenic shock.
 Pulmonary infarction (lung tissue death).
 Death
 Congestive Hear Failure (Right sided)

Treatment



How Do We Manage Pulmonary Embolism ?

The main treatment for a pulmonary embolism is an anticoagulant (blood thinner). Depending on the severity patient may also undergo thrombolytic therapy, surgery or interventional procedures.

1.Anticoagulant medications

In most cases, treatment consists of anticoagulants as it decrease your blood' 's ability to clot. This prevents future blood clots, however it does not dissolve the clots; Blood thinners are: heparin, warfarin (Coumadin), apixaban (Eliquis), rivaroxaban (Xarelto), edoxaban (Savaysa) and dabigatran (Pradaxa).

If a PE is life-threatening, or if other treatments aren' t working, your provider may recommend using medication (thrombolytics), surgery (Embolectomy) or a catheter (Thrombectomy) to remove the blood clot from your pulmonary artery.

2.Thrombolytic therapy

Thrombolytic medications (clot busters) like tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), dissolve the clot. It can be injected through the peripheral IV on injected locally in the pulmonary artery with a catheter c alled EKOS.

3.Thrombectomy

Which is a catheter based procedure where the blood clot can be retrieved through a samll incision in the groin with a catheter (ENARI or PENUMBRA).

4.Surgical Embolectomy

Finally in chronic cases patient can have his blood clot removed through a surgery called Surgical Embolectomy.