



THIRD RAJAN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

**DVT and PE:  
Making a Diagnosis and Creating a Treatment Plan**

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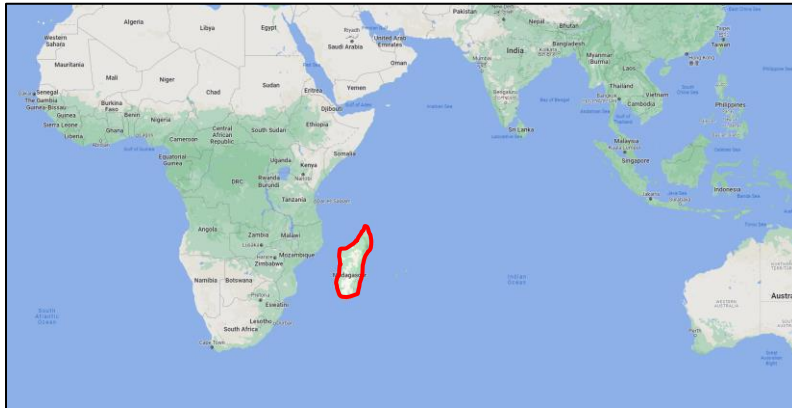
**Stephan Moll, MD**

Hematology  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC



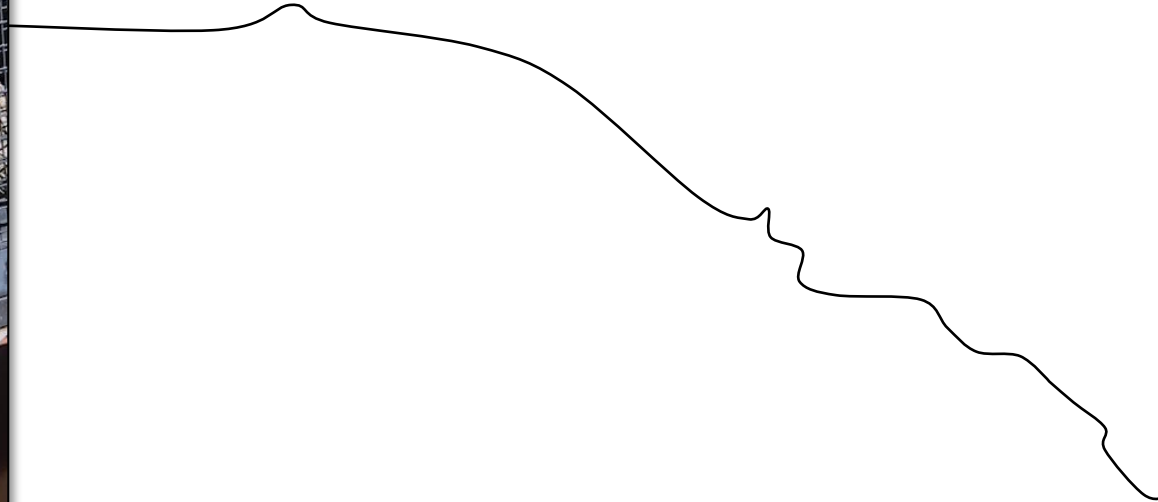
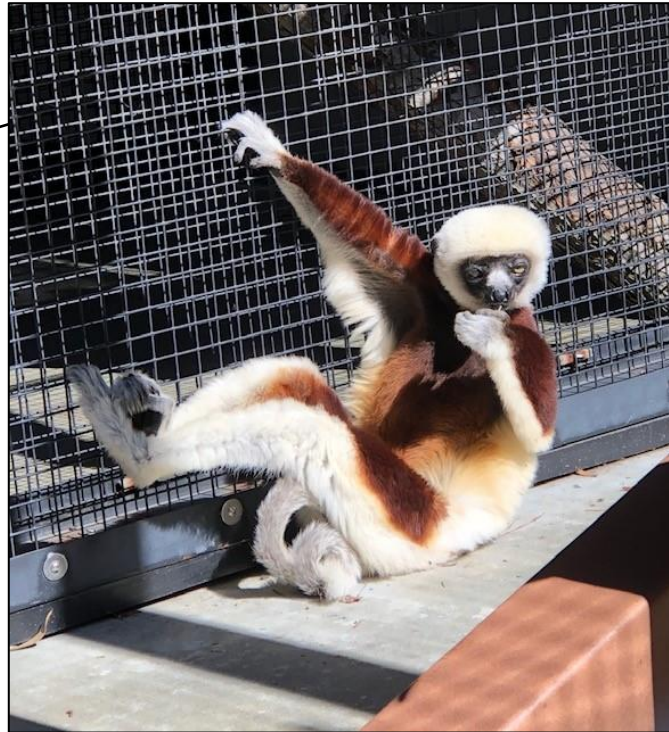


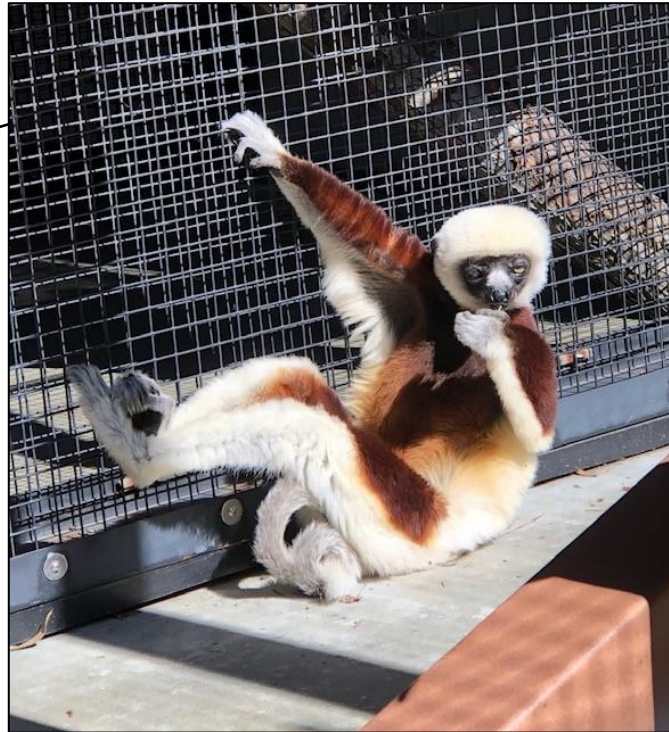
Lemurs: native to Madagascar



### Duke Lemur Center:

- Founded 1966
- Non-invasive research center
- Over 200 lemurs





# An Unusual Consult



Duke Lemur Center  
3705 Erwin Road  
Durham, NC 27705

Laura Ellsaesser, DVM  
Phone: 919-401-7259  
Fax: 919-490-5394  
E-mail: [laura.ellsaesser@duke.edu](mailto:laura.ellsaesser@duke.edu)

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Dear Charlemagne fans and supporters,

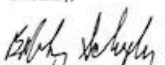
It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that Charlemagne (affectionately, Charlie) is no longer with us. He battled multiple medical problems over the last 12 months, many beyond the scope of what we could have diagnosed or treated without your support. Each of you graciously answered the call for consultation, diagnostic and therapeutic support throughout this process. Your generous support was crucial in us being able to provide Charlie the highest quality care available.

In recent months, he experienced shifting lameness that severely impacted his ability to locomote. Despite all of our interventions for infectious and immune mediated causes and various pain management strategies his lameness continued to progress and we were unable to adequately control his pain. For these reasons, we decided humane euthanasia was in his best interest.


Charlie was an incredible Coquerel's sifaka who taught us all so much. After a rough start as a youngster that required a large amount of handling for medical intervention he developed a "taste" for certain individuals, which caused him to become a protected contact animal. This made his medical management all the more challenging because we could not handle him under the same conditions as the average lemur. In the face of this, our husbandry staff accomplished astounding things with him through training that allowed us to put together a physical therapy plan in an effort to regain muscle mass and function in his most severely affected limb. Through it all, Charlie handled his impairments and treatments with grace and he remained loyal and loving to his family.


On behalf of all of the Duke Lemur Center staff, thank you for all you have done and for your continued support. Please find enclosed a photograph (credit David Haring) of Charlie in his prime when he was still allowed to free range in one of our natural habitat enclosures and a copy of his footprint as a token of our appreciation.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Schopler, DVM, PhD  
Senior Veterinarian

  
Laura N. Ellsaesser, DVM  
Staff Veterinarian

  
Megan Davison, RVT  
Veterinary Technician

  
Catherine Ostrowski, RVT  
Veterinary Technician




"An unusual consult";  
ASH's *The Hematologist* 2019



"An unusual thank-you letter";  
ASH's *The Hematologist* 2019

# 22 Teaching Points



**How to Approach the Patient with Venous Thrombosis**  
22 Practical Clinical Points

**Stephan Moll, MD**  
UNC Chapel Hill

**A. HISTORY**

1. **Defining the clot:** When taking a history of a patient with venous thromboembolism (VTE), it is advisable to define the clot:
  - Was it a superficial thrombophlebitis or a deep vein thrombosis (DVT)? *To help with the determination when no imaging report is available, a detailed review of the extremity symptoms at the time of the clot is often helpful.*
  - Was it a distal or proximal DVT?
  - Was the pulmonary embolism (PE) a massive, sub-massive, or low-risk PE?
2. **Anatomy, terminology:** Confusion as to which veins are superficial and which deep can lead to misclassification of superficial thrombophlebitis and DVT and, thus, to incorrect treatment decisions.
 

**Key terminology:**

  - **In the arm:** Basilic and cephalic veins are superficial veins; brachial vein is a deep vein;
  - **In the leg:** Greater and lesser saphenous veins are superficial veins; popliteal vein and anything proximally to it are proximal veins; gastrocnemius and soleal veins are intramuscular calf veins and part of the deep venous system, and, together with the peroneal and tibial veins, make up the deep veins of the distal leg. The femoral vein is sometimes still mistakenly referred to by its old name, "superficial femoral vein"; it is a deep vein.
3. **VTE risk factors:** In the patient with VTE, it is helpful to identify and list all VTE risk factors in an A..., B..., C .... fashion, such as:
 

"Right leg proximal DVT. VTE risk factors:

  - A) arthroscopic knee surgery 7 days before onset of leg symptoms
  - B) body mass index 34.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - C) oral contraceptives (estrogen-progestin)
  - D) family history of VTE (father with unprovoked VTE at age 42;
  - E) heterozygous factor V Leiden"

Updated September 2021 1

Anticoagulation FORUM

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Anticoagulation FORUM

Anticoagulation FORUM

2

Updated September 2021

3



# First Step



## Take-home points

1. Define the blood clot
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....



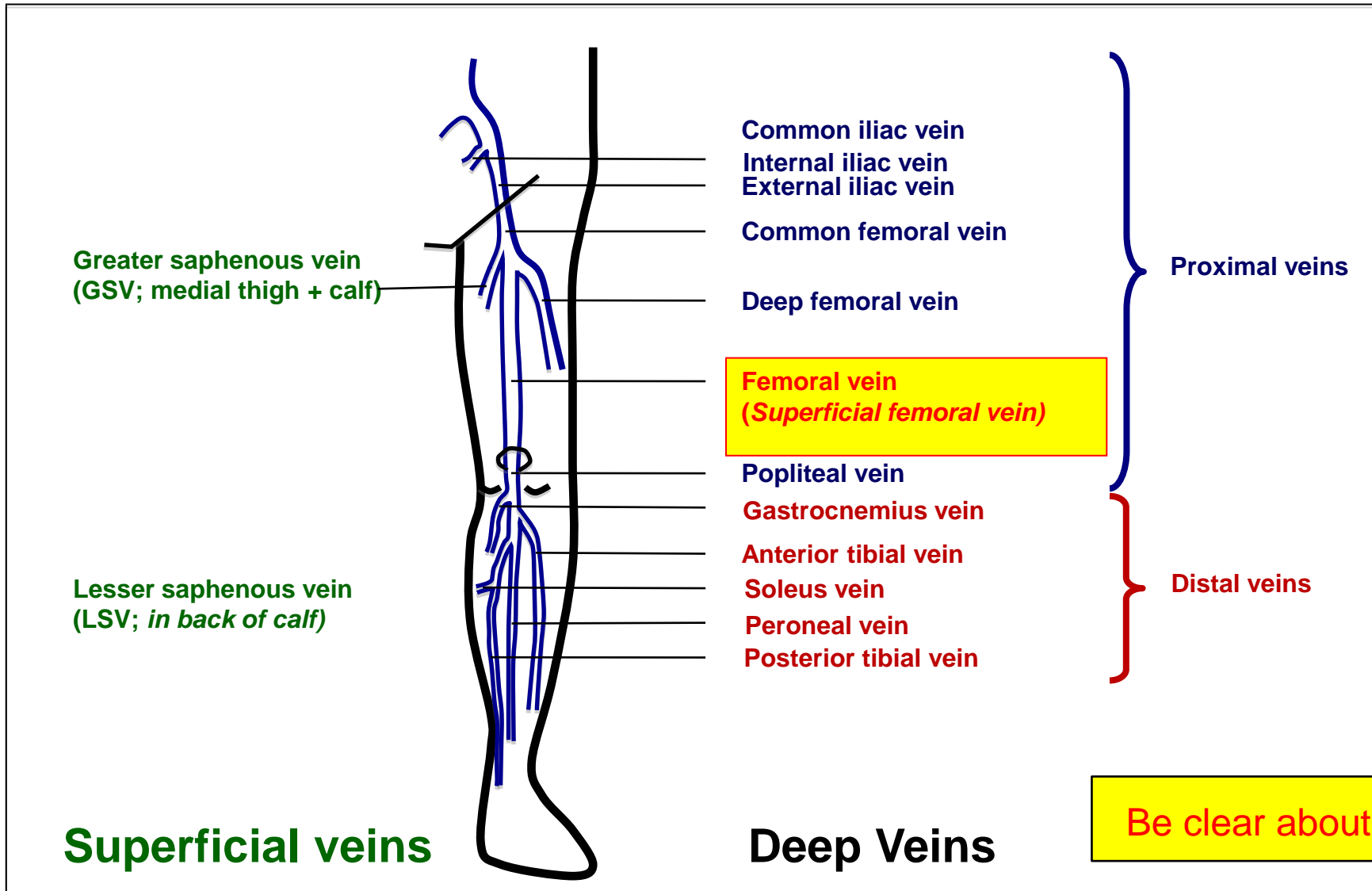
# “Curbside Consult”

“Quick question: Superficial thrombophlebitis in the right leg superficial femoral vein; not very symptomatic. My plan was to observe.”

**Caveat!**

- “Superficial femoral vein” is NOT a superficial vein.
- This patient has a leg DVT.

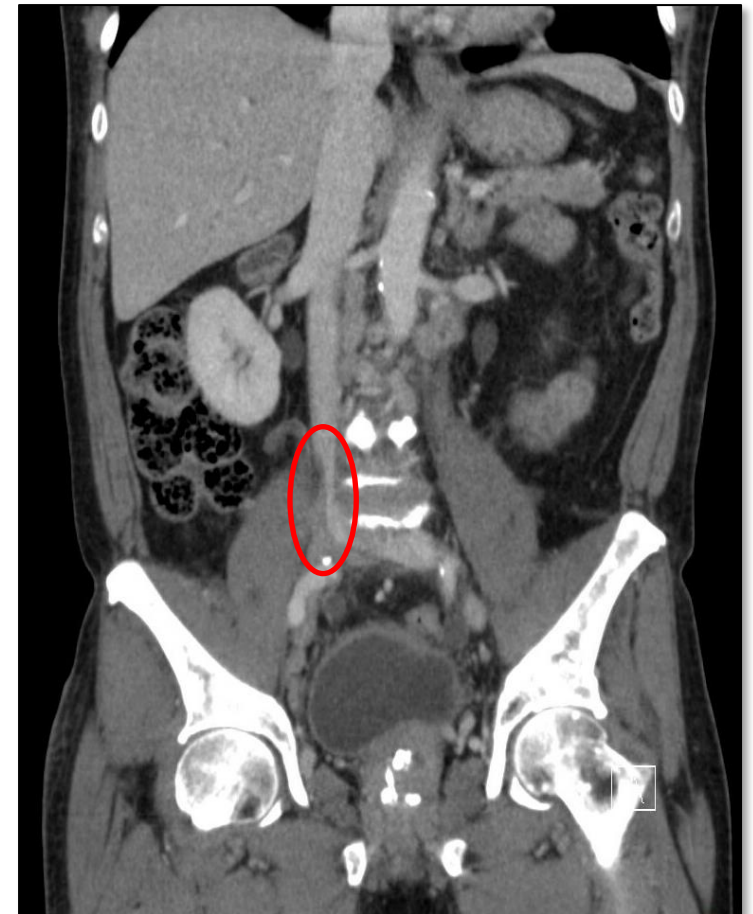
# Leg Clots – Basic Anatomy



# “DVT”

- 69 year old patient with known metastatic prostate cancer
- Evaluation for increasing right leg pain
- Doppler ultrasound study of legs:

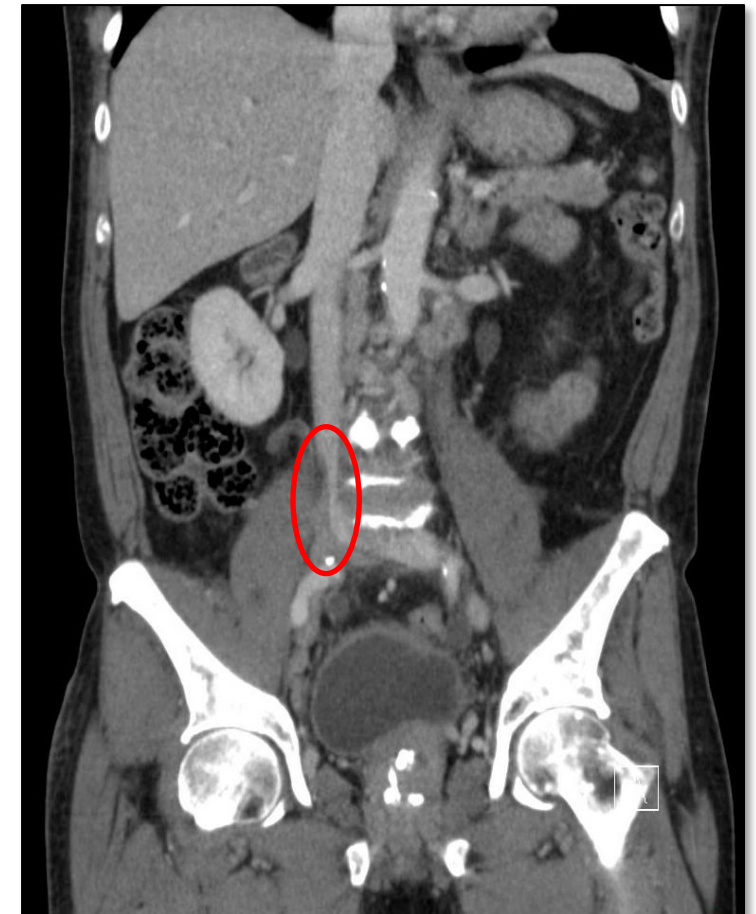
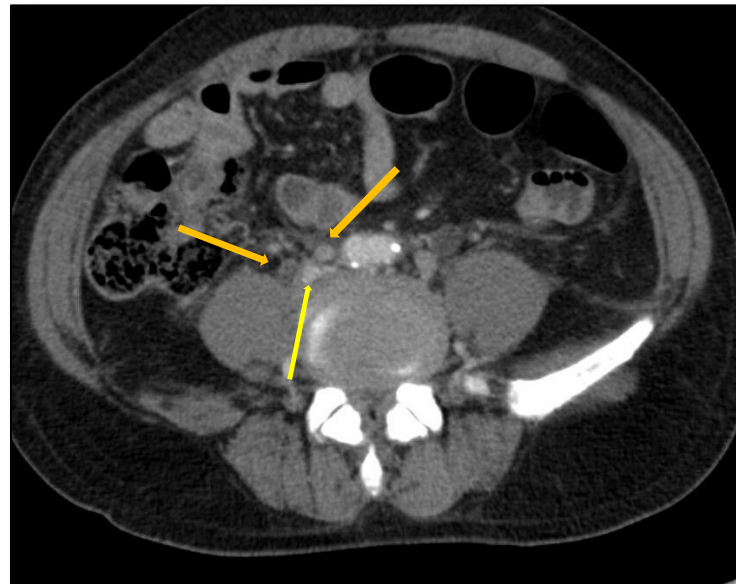
Final Interpretation  
Right  
Possible obstruction proximal to the inguinal ligament.



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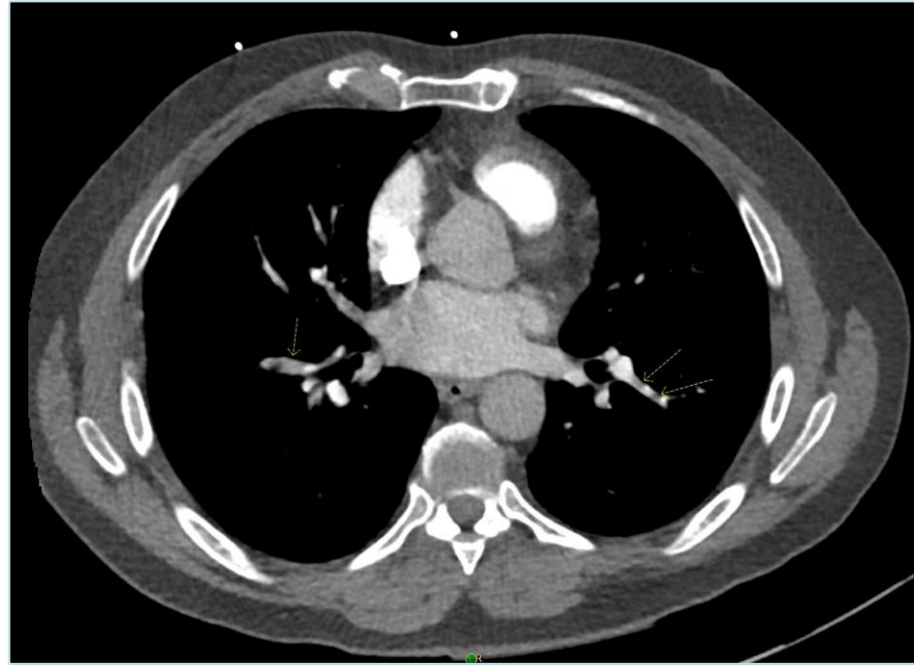


Be clear about the diagnosis

# “PE”

Q: “How long to anticoagulate?”

- 60 year old, smoker
- Sudden SOB
  - D-Dimer: negative
  - CTA: PE
  - Venous Doppler legs: no DVT
- Anticoagulation and COPD treatment.



#### IMPRESSION:

1. Several small acute subsegmental pulmonary emboli in both lower lobes. Overall clot burden is minimal.
2. Pattern of diffuse centrilobular ground-glass attenuation micronodularity throughout the lungs bilaterally. This is likely a manifestation of a smoking related disease such as RB (respiratory bronchiolitis), or if the patient is symptomatic, RB-ILD (respiratory bronchiolitis-interstitial lung disease). If the patient is not a smoker, this can be seen with acute hypersensitivity pneumonitis.
3. Emphysema (ICD10-J43.9).
4. Aortic atherosclerosis (ICD10-I70.0).



Question radiology reports!

# First Step



## Take-home points

1. Define the blood clot
2. List the blood clot risk factors
3. ....
4. ....

# Blood Clot Risk Factors

## Weak risk factors (OR < 2)

Bed rest >3 days  
Diabetes mellitus  
Arterial hypertension  
Immobility due to sitting (e.g. prolonged car or air travel)  
Increasing age  
Laparoscopic surgery (e.g. cholecystectomy)  
Obesity  
Pregnancy  
Varicose veins

## Moderate risk factors (OR 2 – 9)

Arthroscopic knee surgery  
Autoimmune diseases  
Blood transfusion  
Central venous lines  
Intravenous catheters and leads  
Chemotherapy  
Congestive heart failure or respiratory failure  
Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents  
Hormone replacement therapy (depends on formulation)  
*In vitro* fertilization  
Oral contraceptive therapy  
Post-partum period  
Infection (specifically pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and HIV)  
Inflammatory bowel disease  
Cancer (highest risk in metastatic disease)  
Paralytic stroke  
Superficial vein thrombosis  
Thrombophilia

## Strong risk factors (OR > 10)

Fracture of lower limb  
Hospitalization for heart failure or atrial fibrillation/flutter (within previous 3 months)  
Hip or knee replacement  
Major trauma  
Myocardial infarction (within previous 3 months)  
Previous VTE  
Spinal cord injury

Blood clots are often multifactorial:  
A....., B....., C.....

# How Long to Treat?

**Conglomerate decision of:**

**1. Risk of recurrent clot**

A. ..., B. ..., C. ...



**2. Risk for bleeding**

A. ..., B. ..., C. ...

**3. Patient preference**





# How Long to Treat?

How long to treat?

3 months

Long-term

DVT or PE - major transient risk factor

Woman with DVT or PE on hormones  
Non-major transient risk factor

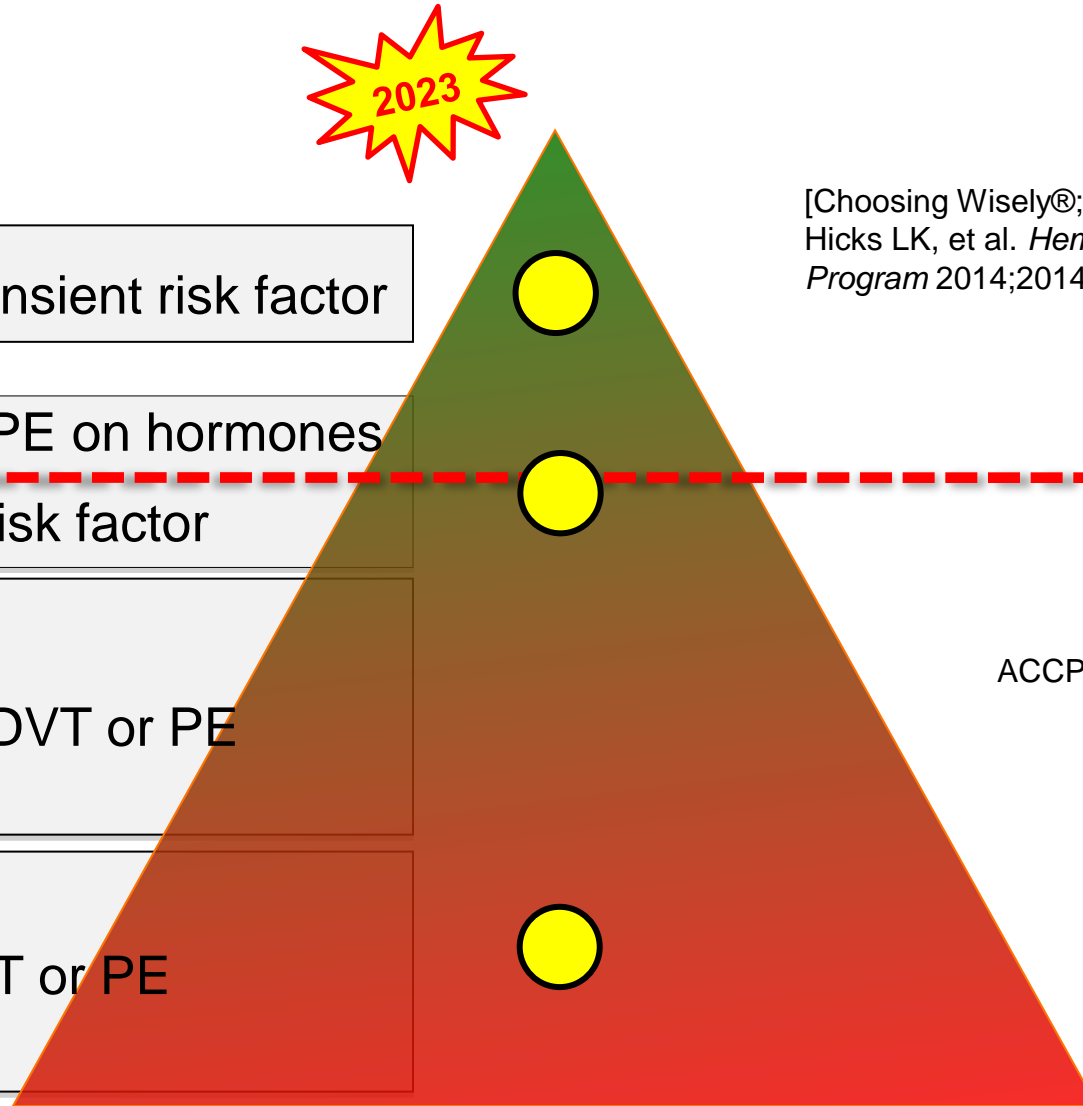
Woman, unprovoked DVT or PE

Man, unprovoked DVT or PE

2023

[Choosing Wisely®;  
Hicks LK, et al. *Hematology ASH Education  
Program* 2014;2014: 599-603]

ACCP, AHA, ISTH, BJH  
ASH 2020

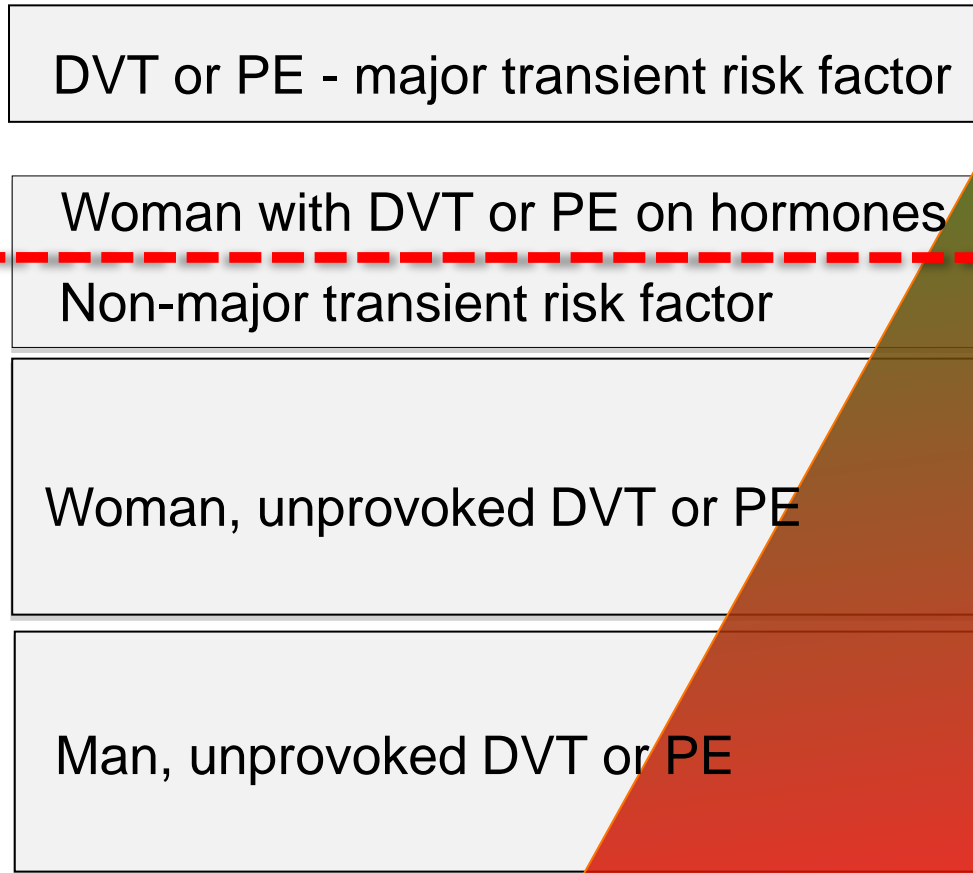


# How Long to Treat?

How long to treat?

3 months

Long-term



Cumulative VTE Recurrence Rate	
1 year	5 years
1 %	3 %
2.7 % <sup>2</sup>	6 % <sup>1</sup>
5 %	15 %
10 %	30 %

[Kearon C et al. Blood 2014;123:1794-1801]  
<sup>1</sup>[Douketis J et al. BMJ 2011;342:d813]  
<sup>2</sup>[Wiegers HMG et al. J Thromb Haemost 2022;20:1158-65]

# How Long to Treat?

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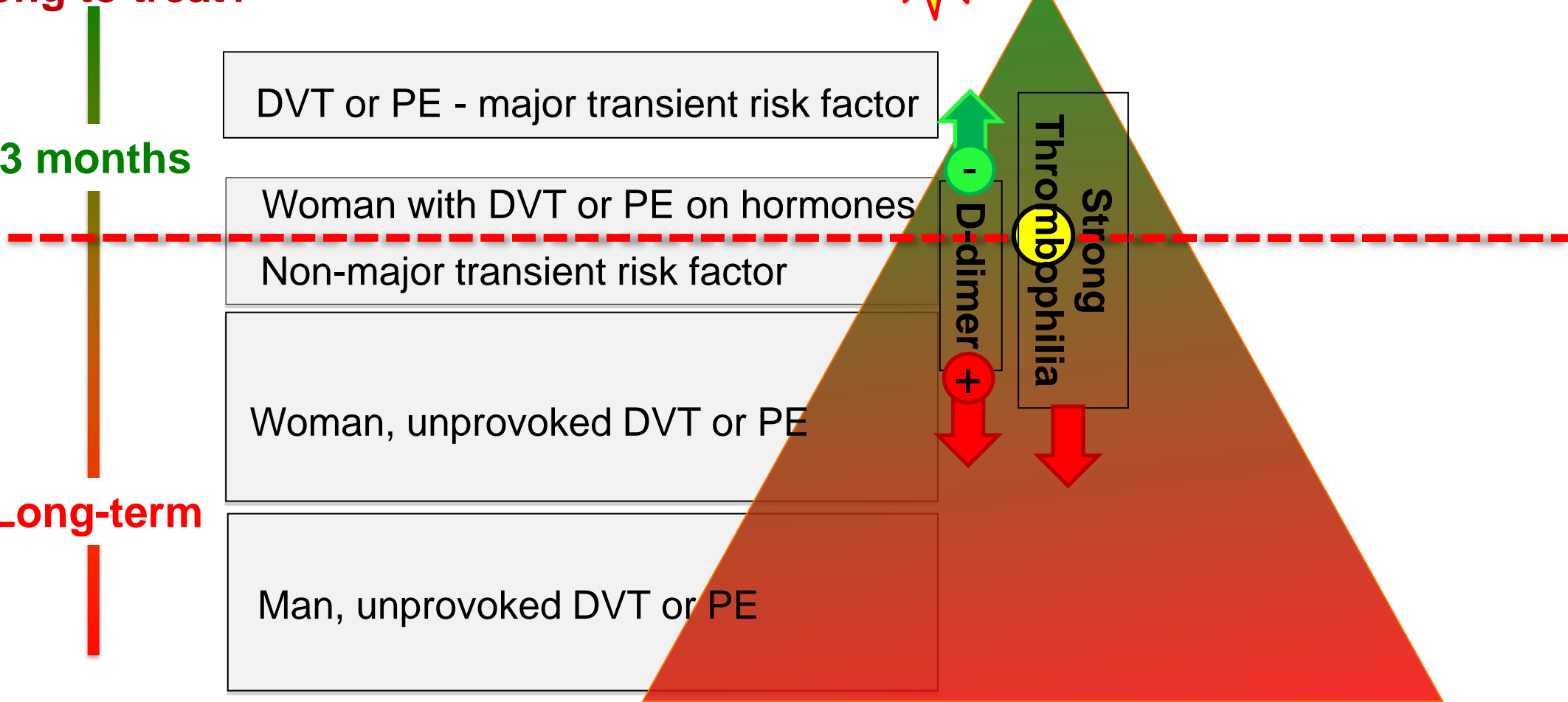
D-dimer -



Strong Thrombophilia



Strong Thrombophilia

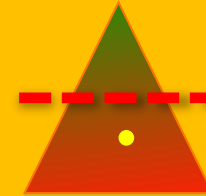


# How Long to Treat?



## Take-home points

1. Define the blood clot
2. List the blood clot risk factors: A....., B....., C.....
3. "Recurrence Triangle"
4. Blood thinner "Hate Factor"



# Another Unusual Consult

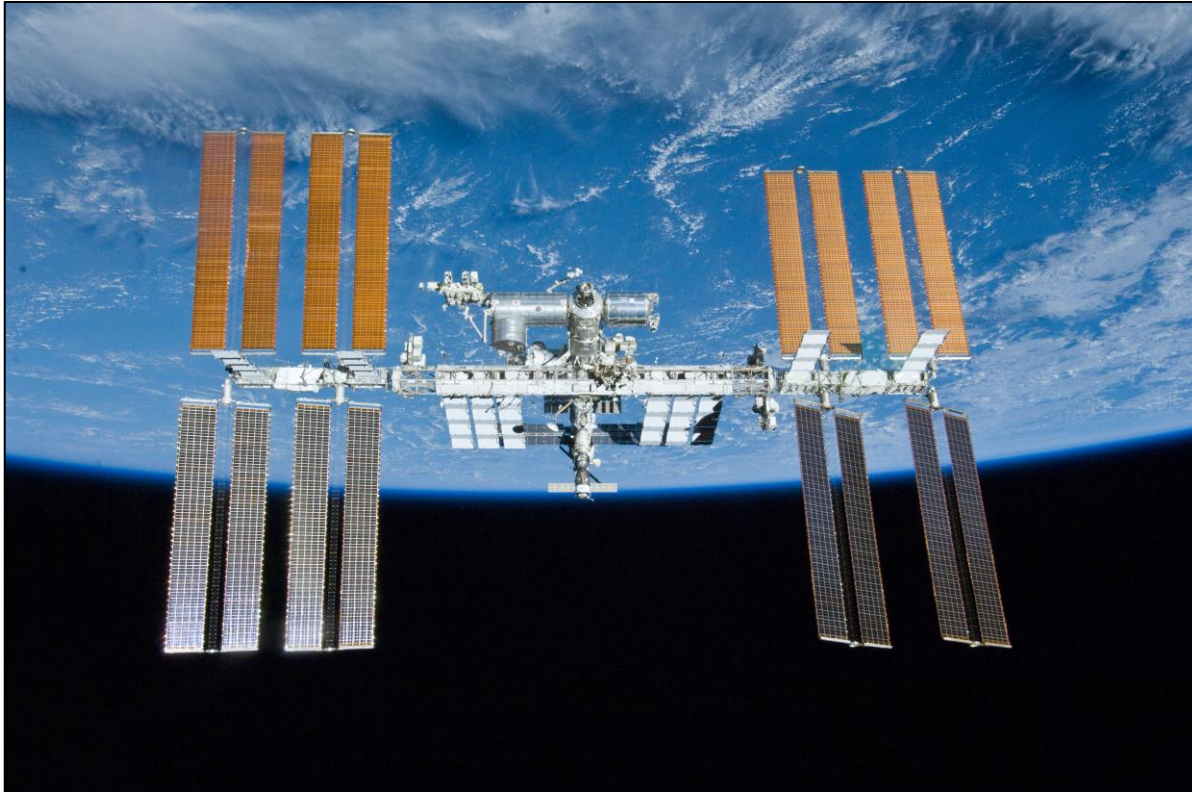


Photo courtesy of NASA



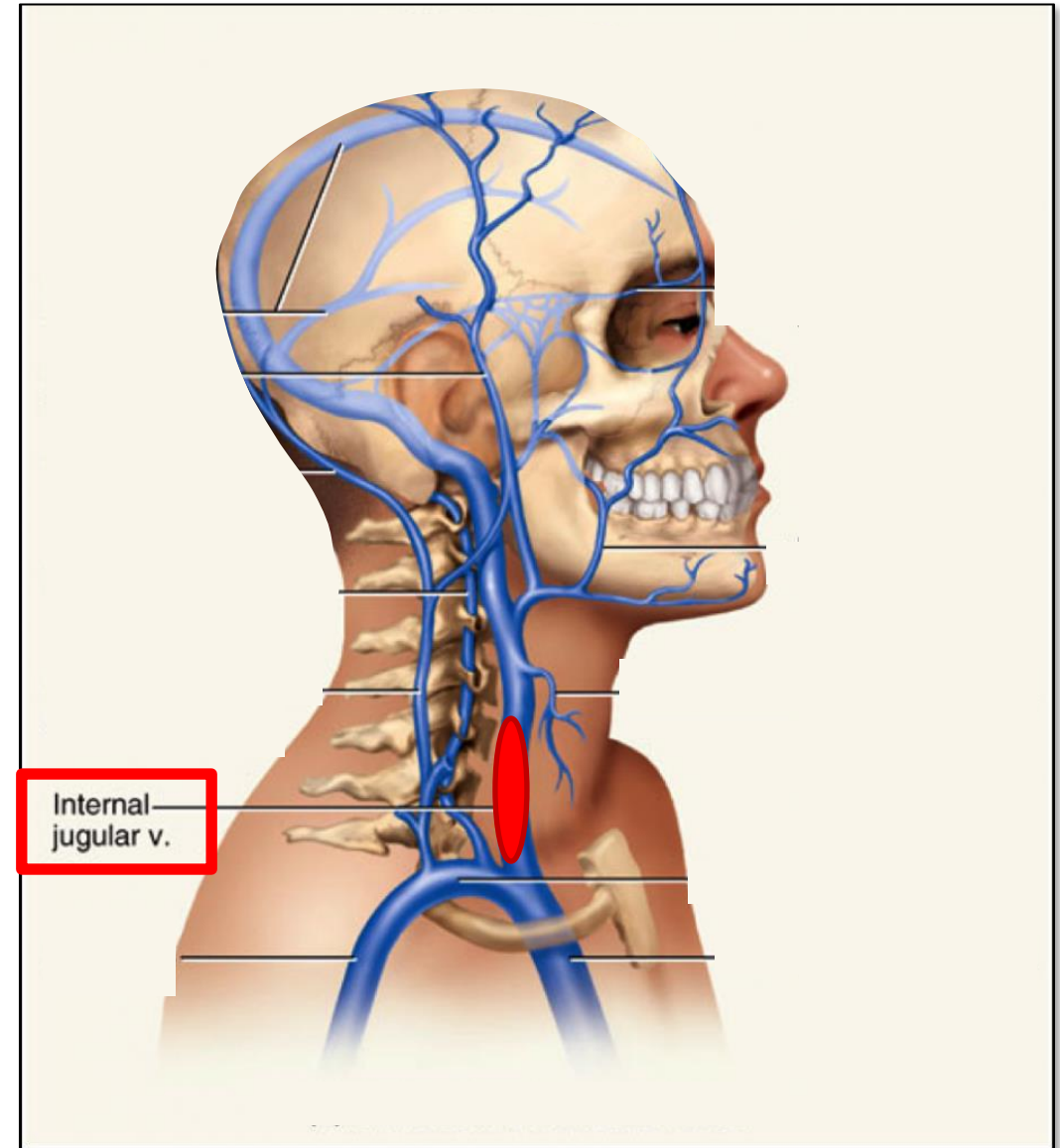
# Astronaut with Neck Vein Clot

## 1. Define the blood clot

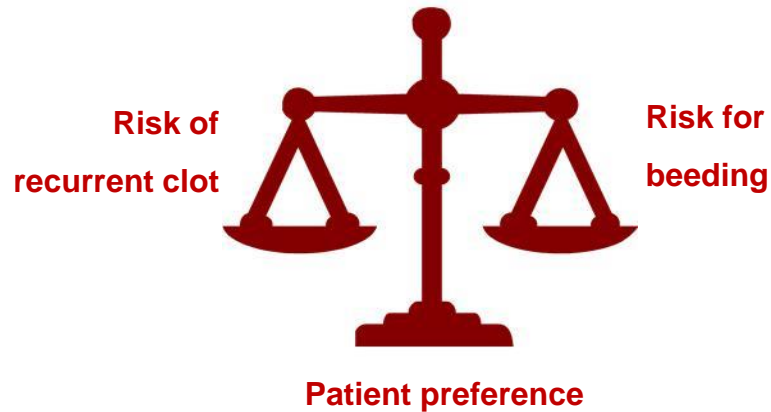
Internal Jugular DVT, no symptoms

## 2. List the risk factors: A....., B....., C.....

- A. Birth control pill
- B. Harness?
- C. Low gravity: fluid redistribution?
- D. Clotting disorder, etc.

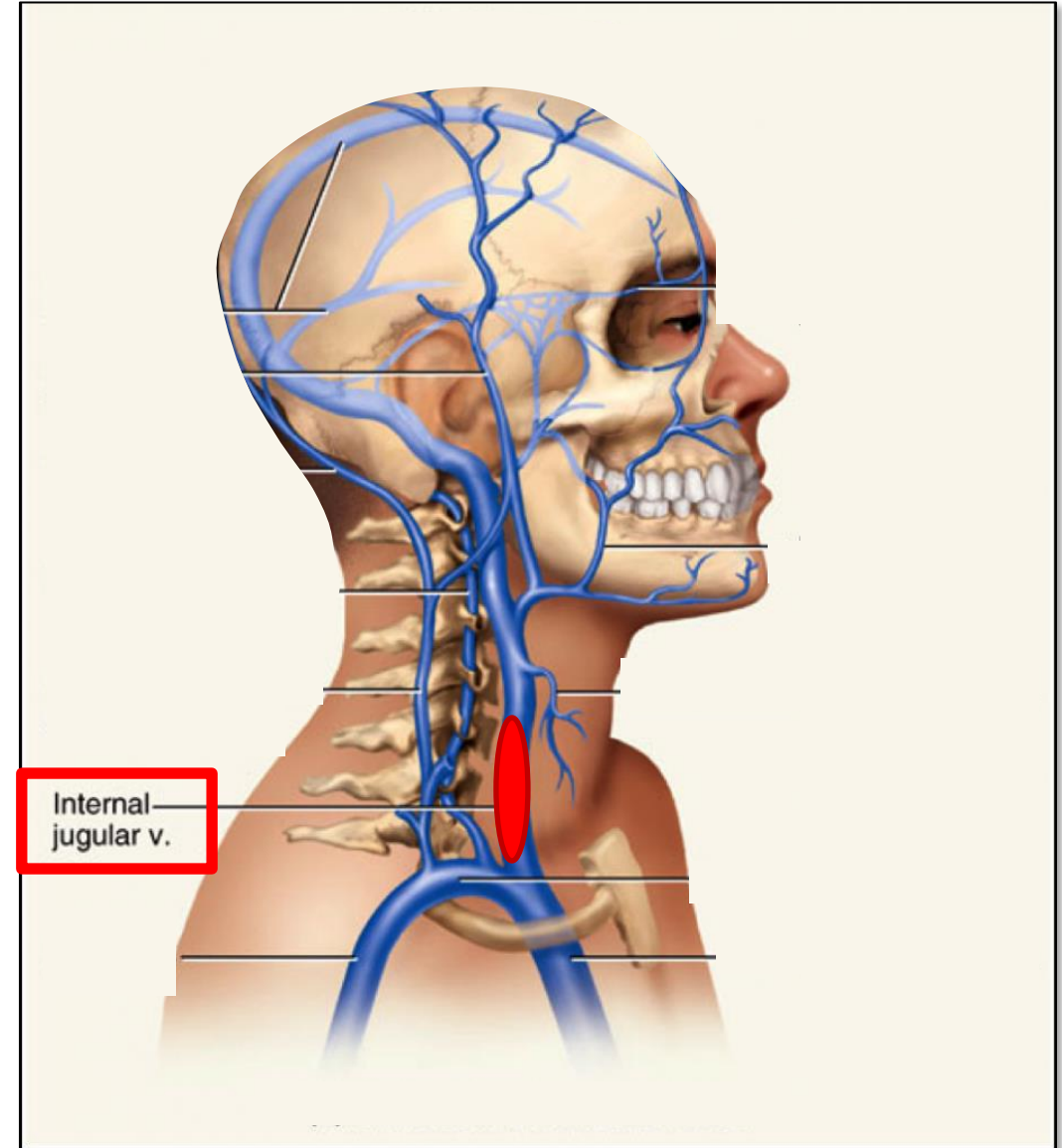


# Astronaut with Neck Vein Clot

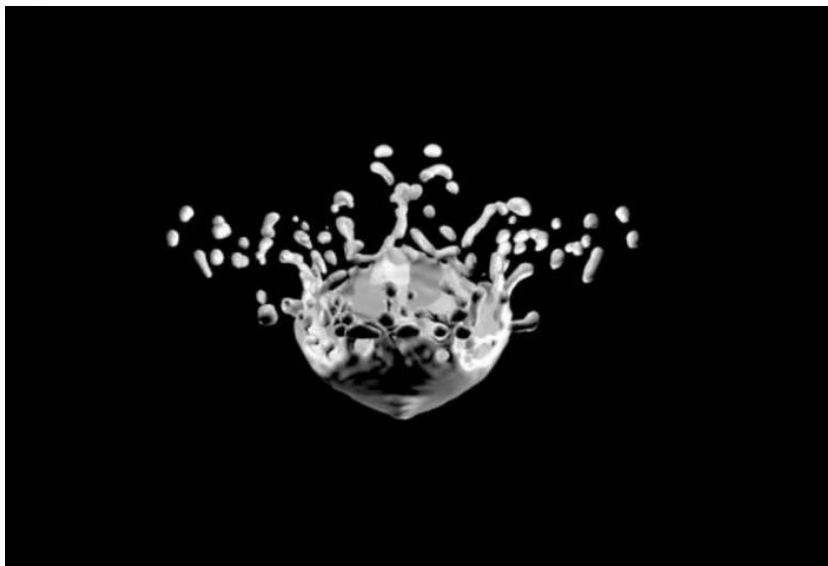


## Risks:

- Upstream progression into head/brain
- Downstream progression into arm; or lung (PE)
- Blood thinner: bleeding

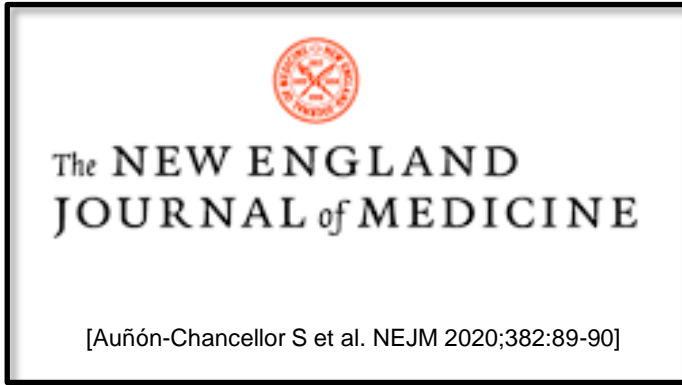


# Astronaut with Neck Vein Clot

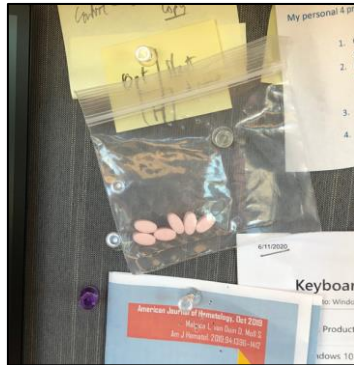




# Astronaut with Neck Vein Clot



[Surveillance for jugular venous thrombosis in astronauts.  
Pavela J et al. J Vasc Med. 2022 Aug;27(4):365-372]



UNC专家在NASA任务期间帮助治疗宇航员的血块

2020-01-03 11:00:00 来源:

UNC医学血液凝块专家、美国国家航空航天局(NASA)长期心脏病专家、医学博士斯蒂芬·莫尔(Stephen Muir)说：“当美国国家航空航天局(NASA)与我联系时，我的第一个反应是问我是否可以去国际空间站(ISS)检查宇航员。” NASA告诉我，他们正在国际空间站(ISS)进行飞行，所以我从北卡罗来纳州Chapel Hill进行了远程治疗。

400 KILOMETER ENTFERNUNG VON DER ERDE  
**Blutgerinnsel von ISS-Astronaut im All behandelt**

400 KILOMETER ENTFERNUNG VON DER ERDE  
**Treating the first known blood clot in space**

By Ashley Strickland, CNN  
Updated 5:21 PM ET, Fri January 3, 2020

UNC doctor helps ISS astronaut who was suffering from blood clots  
Chapel Hill, N.C. — UNC Chapel Hill has a long relationship with NASA. So when an astronaut on ...  
WRAL · 3d



# Astronaut ...



Recent New Coverage - Well Done!

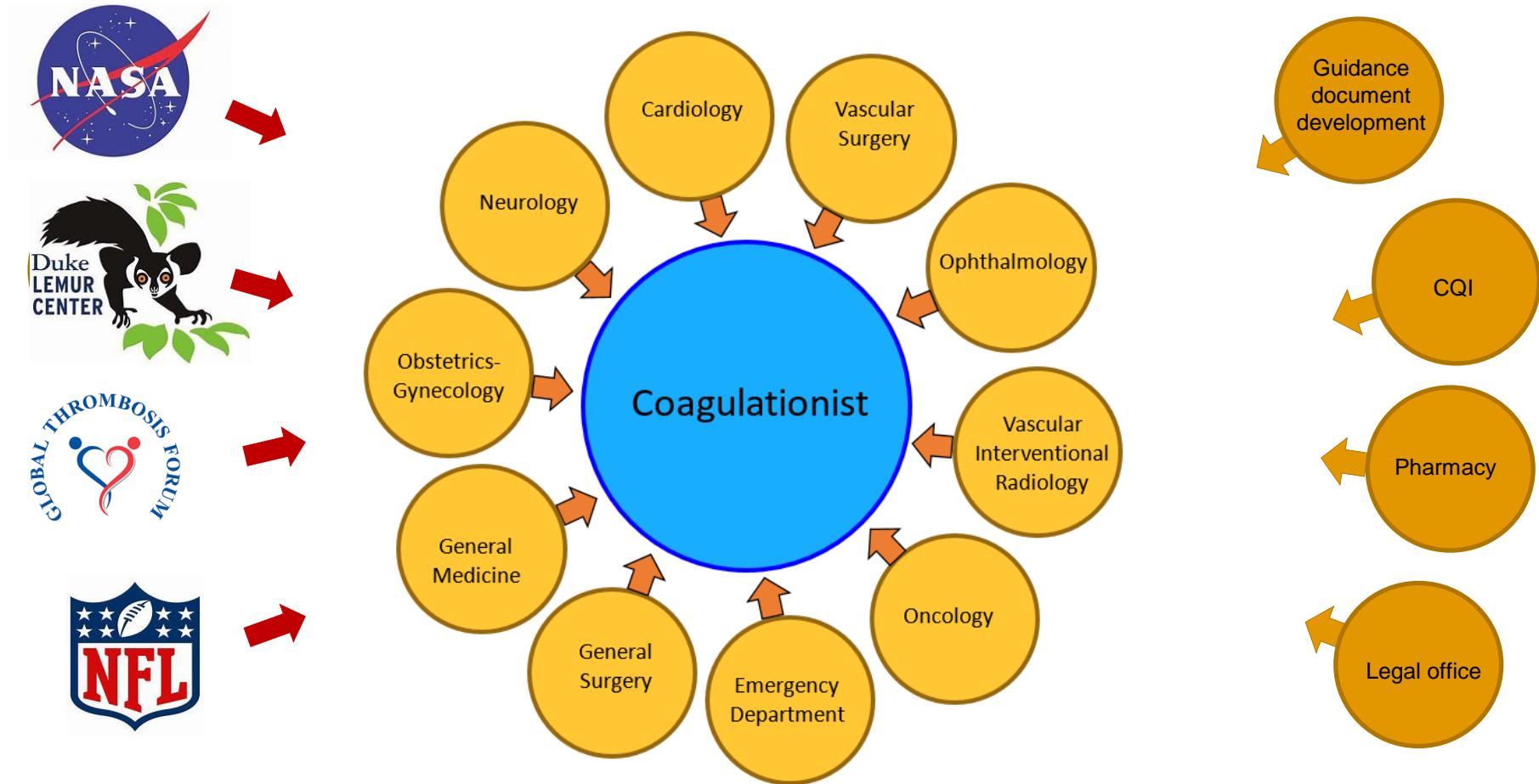
Dr. Moll –

Just a brief note to thank you for your work at UNC and the  
with NASA. Your work makes us all proud to be part of UNC

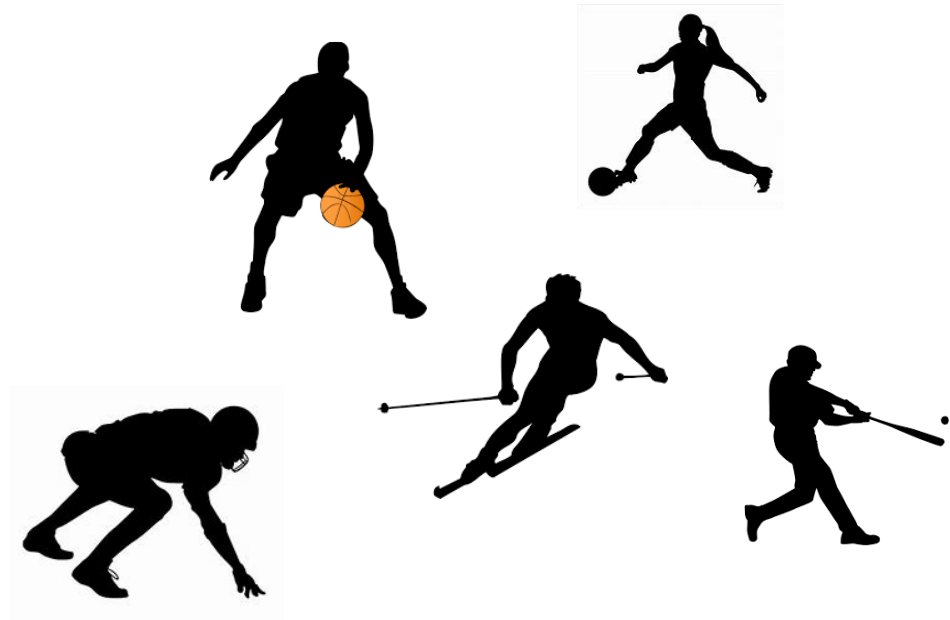
“Are they going to pay  
you more money now?”



# Being a Coagulationist



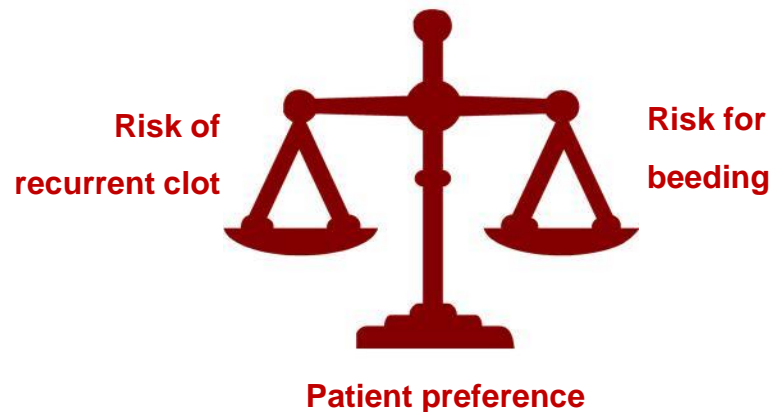
# Athletes and Blood Clots



## Temporary interruption of blood thinners



[Douketis JD et al. JAMA Intern Med. 2019;179(11):1469-1478]

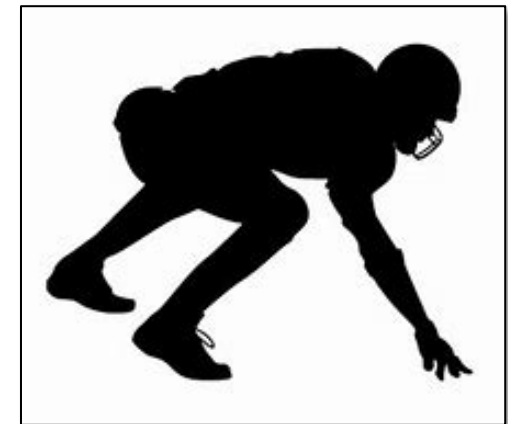


## Take-home points

$3 \times t_{1/2} = 36 \text{ hrs (1.5 days)}$

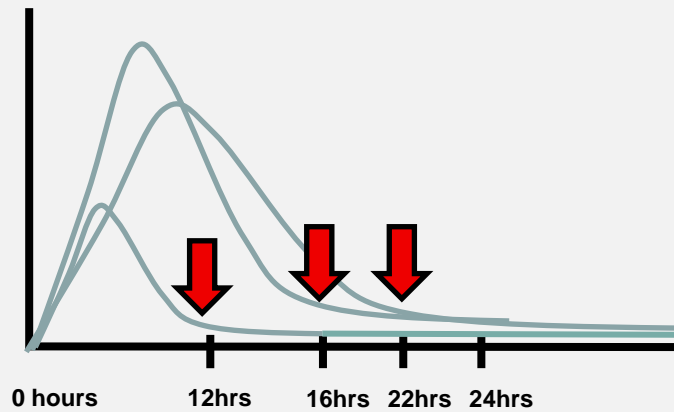
$5 \times t_{1/2} = 60 \text{ hrs (2.5 days)}$

# Patient Preference

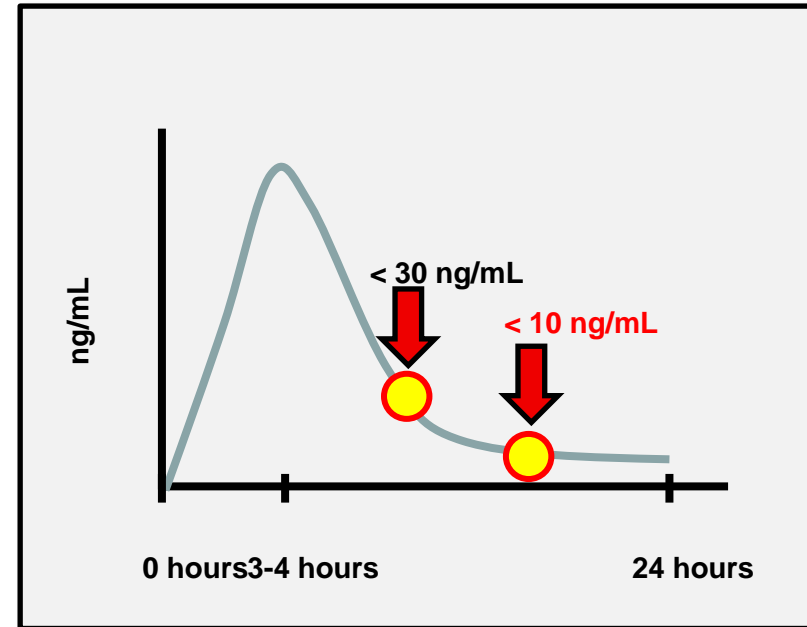


# Athletes on Blood Thinners

“Inter-individual DOAC PK variation



[Samuelson BT et al. Chest 2017;151:127-138]



“Safe” DOAC level unknown

## Intermittent anticoagulation strategy



# Intermittent Anticoagulation Strategy



Needs to be off blood thinners (Eliquis® 2.5 mg 2x/day) for **at least 13 hrs** before engaging in significant contact activities

	Su	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AM	Yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes
		3 PM practice		3 PM practice		3 PM practice	
PM	Yes	?	yes	?	Yes	?	yes

Green fields indicate that pt will take Eliquis® 2.5

Red field indicates he will not take Eliquis® 2.5

Orange fields indicates: unclear whether he should take Eliquis® or not; it depends on whether he had any trauma/significant trauma during practice.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE HEMATOLOGY: ELITE ATHLETES AND WEEKEND WARRIORS |



**Elite athletes and anticoagulant therapy: an intermittent dosing strategy**

Stephan Moll,<sup>1</sup> Joshua N. Berkowitz,<sup>2,3</sup> and Christopher W. Miars<sup>4,5</sup>

[Moll S , Berkowitz J, Miars C. 2018;Hematology 2018, ASH Education Program:412-417]

[Berkowitz J, Moll S. J Thromb Haemost 2017;15:1051-4]



# High-Level Athletes

## Athletes and Blood Clots Program

The "Athletes and Blood Clots Program" at the University of North Carolina has three objectives:

1. To offer state-of-the art multi-specialty medical care (Hematology [Dr. Stephan Moll] plus Sports Medicine [Dr. Josh Berkowitz]) to high level active athletes with deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE);
2. To provide education and information to athletes, physicians, the general public and the media about DVT and PE in athletes;
3. To perform and support clinical and basic research that addresses open questions about cause, prevention and best management of DVT and PE in athletes.

No such specialty program currently exists in the U.S.

### Clinic Scheduler

For clinic appointment inquiries, contact hematology clinic scheduler [✉ Erin Pfeuffer](#) or [✉ Dr. Stephan Moll](#).



**Erin Pfeuffer**

Hematology clinic scheduler

### The Rest of Our Team



**Josh Berkowitz, MD**

UNC Sports Medicine

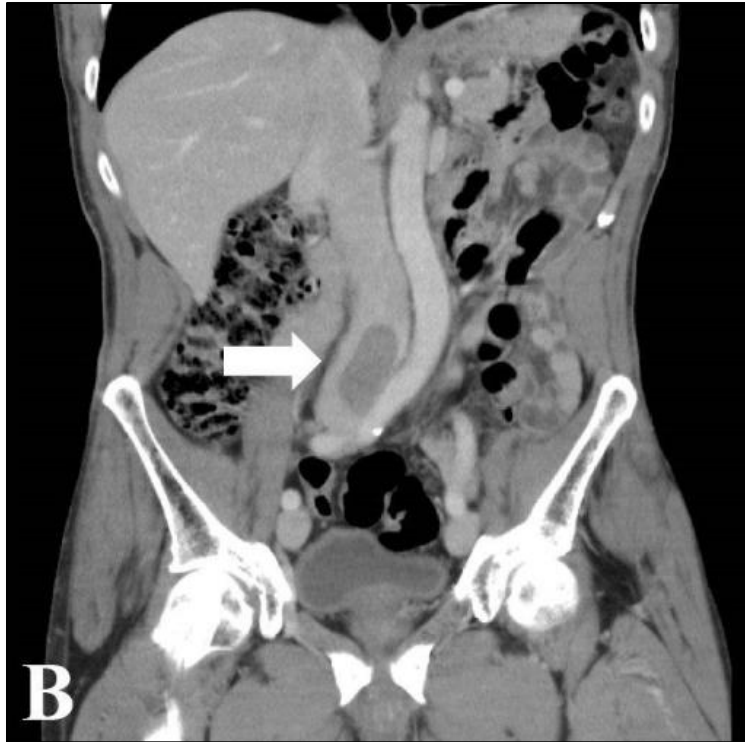


**Stephan Moll, MD**

Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine  
Hematology



# Athletes and Blood Clots ...



Weightlifting belt

[Imanishi J et al. Intern Med 2018;57:2517-2521]

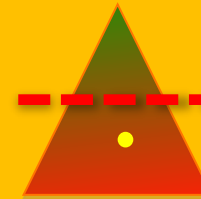
Finally...



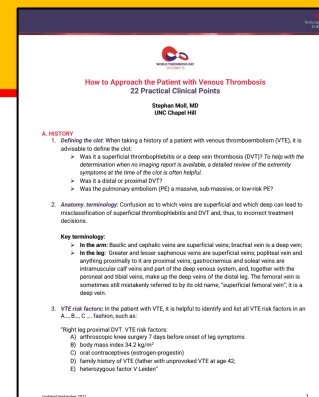
Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020: InterContinental Hotel Buckhead, Atlanta

# Summary

1. Define the blood clot
2. List the blood clot risk factors: A....., B....., C.....
3. Try the “Recurrence Triangle”
4. Blood thinner “Hate Factor”



## 5. 22 Teaching Points





**STEPHAN MOLL, MD**  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE  
UNC THROMBOSIS PROGRAM

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