Scientific Update on Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Orthopedic Surgery: MAKING SENSE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a common complication in patients undergoing orthopedic surgery, particularly total hip and knee arthroplasty. While the risk of VTE is highest during the first four weeks after surgery, the risk of VTE exceeds that for the general population for months after surgery. The extended risk period for VTE after orthopedic surgery has spurred clinical investigation of extended thromboprophylaxis, which led to its adoption in routine clinical care.

Although routine venography and venous duplex studies are sensitive screening modalities for identifying lower extremity deep vein thrombosis (DVT), the relevance of asymptomatic distal DVT has been increasingly questioned in recent years. Improvements in postoperative care have led to reductions in symptomatic VTE and greater scrutiny of hemorrhagic complications from anticoagulant thromboprophylaxis. In this webinar, Dr. Streiff will review the following:

- The epidemiology of VTE after orthopedic surgery
- Landmark studies of thromboprophylaxis
- Current recommendations for VTE prevention after orthopedic surgery
- An overview of current studies of VTE prophylaxis for orthopedic surgery
- Potential future directions in orthopedic thromboprophylaxis

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe the incidence of VTE in orthopedic surgery
2. Describe the current approach to VTE prevention in orthopedic surgery
3. State three results from published, randomized, controlled trials of VTE prophylaxis in orthopedic surgery

This webinar is free and open to public health professionals, clinicians, and researchers who desire more information about VTE.

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