Use of VascuTherm for Post-Operative Thermal, Compression & DVT Prophylactic Therapy

The VascuTherm delivers a unique solution for thermal compression and DVT prophylaxis, all in one convenient and transportable device. Not only is this device unique in the multi-modality design, but the proprietary solid state technology eliminates the need for ice while offering precise temperature control for preventing tissue damage.

Your patient will receive thermal compression as well as mechanical DVT prophylaxis, which is highly effective in preventing late onset DVT. All of these modalities are programmable and work in sequence with each modality, therefore eliminating the problem of several devices conflicting in treatment.

Why is mechanical DVT Prophylaxis important in the home setting?

Thermal and compression therapy is documented to be helpful for post-surgical patients and pharmacological DVT prevention is administered to most patients undergoing surgery. Carrying the DVT prophylaxis over to the home setting is another preventative measure that can prevent this type of never event from occurring. Consider the following statistics from the U.S. Surgeon General’s Report, 2008:

- In the absence of appropriate preventative treatment, 40%-60% of patients requiring major orthopedic surgery will develop venous thrombosis.
- Perhaps as many as 50% of the DVT cases are “silent” and result in a fatal PE.
- 45% to 80% of all symptomatic events occur after hospital discharge. The incidence of VTE in the absence of prophylaxis ranges from 40% to 60% 7-14 days after major orthopedic surgery.

In addition to these statistics from the U.S. Surgeon General, consider these statistics:

- Extended-duration VTE prophylaxis for 28-35 days reduces the risk for late VTE by up to 70%. American Journal Orthopedics Aug 2009 J. Muntz, MD
- IPC devices resulted in decreased bleeding events compared to low-weight molecular weight heparin (LMWH) while reducing DVT occurrence rates just as well as LMWH. Journal Bone & Joint Surgery Am. May 2010 C. Cowell, et. al.
How do you know if your patient is at risk?

Several risk assessment tools are available to aid in assessing a patient’s risk for developing a venous thromboembolism. It is critical that the patient’s risk is properly evaluated.

These risk assessment tools assign patients to one of four VTE risk levels based on the type of operation, age, and the presence of additional factors.

The following scoring and risk factor assessment were developed by Joseph Caprini, MD, MS, FACS:

As you will note, beginning at a score of just 2-4, which would be just arthroscopic surgery, not even mentioning age, weight, or family history, a compression device is recommended. These risk factors can add up quickly and should be evaluated before prescribing therapy.

The VascuTherm is an effective device for administering DVT prophylaxis as well as thermal compression therapy to reduce the risk of DVT as well as aid in a faster ambulation and pain management post-surgically. All of these benefits in one easy to use and transportable device to improve your patient’s recovery.