

**PROTOCOL FOR THROMBOPROPHYLAXIS IN PATIENTS WITH
 METASTATIC SPINAL CORD COMPRESSION**

THE CHRISTIE, GREATER MANCHESTER & CHESHIRE

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Target audience:	All Clinicians		

The risk of thromboembolism (DVT and/or PE) in patients with metastatic spine disease is high, especially if they are also immobile due to limb weakness. Other risk factors include, old age, obesity, anti-thrombin III, protein C&S and factor V Leiden deficiencies, previous history of DVT/PE and prolonged surgery.

In randomised trials of surgical patients, the wearing of TEDS or use of Intermittent Pneumatic Compression of calves (IPC: Flotron boots) reduces the incidence of DVT by approx. 50-60%. Likewise, low molecular weight heparin has also been shown to reduce the incidence of DVT by at least 50%.

- Assessment:**
- Assess concurrent risk factors for thromboembolism
 - Consider likely period of immobilisation
 - Assess risk of bleeding, such as concurrent medications, thrombocytopenia, clotting disorders.
 - Is patient already on Warfarin for other reasons?

Treatment:

1. If appropriate, early ambulation and physiotherapy for all patients.
2. For patients who are unlikely to be mobile for > 3 days consider TEDS where appropriate.
3. For patients likely to be immobile >24 hours consider starting LMWH subcutaneously once a day, Taking into consideration patient's general condition, any contra-indications and expected prognosis. This should be discussed with patient.
4. If, despite the above, the patient develops clinical evidence of thromboembolism, full anticoagulation will be indicated.

For more information and protocols on management of MSCC see:
<http://www.christie.nhs.uk/MSCC>



CONSULTATION, APPROVAL & RATIFICATION PROCESS

All documents must be involved in a consultation process either locally within a department or division or throughout the trust at relevant board/committee meetings before being submitted for approval.



VERSION CONTROL SHEET

Version	Date	Author	Status	Comment
V1	Aug 2007	Vivek Misra	Creation	
V2	Dec 2010	Vivek Misra Lena Richards	Update Review	Updated document. Reviewed content
V3	Nov 2013	Lena Richards Vivek Misra	Update Review	Updated document. Reviewed content
V3	Jan 2016 Jan 2018	Vivek Misra Lena Richards	Review Review	No updates required. No updates
V04	Dec 2024	Claire Shanahan		Full review. Change to owner and accountable committee. Minor formatting amends.

