Prevention of venous thromboembolism after injury
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
The aims of this report are to evaluate the existing literature, summarize the evidence, and perform meta-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis on data relevant to prevention of venous thromboembolism after injury. Venous thromboembolism occurs frequently after trauma and causes significant mortality and long-term disability. At the same time, methods to prevent and diagnose it are highly controversial and physicians' practices vary widely. With this evidence report, we intend to examine these controversial areas by analyzing the existing scientific literature. An equally important objective is to identify areas in which evidence is lacking in order to direct future research.

Authors' conclusions
The evidence on prevention of venous thromboembolism after injury is scanty. Many practices are based on extrapolation from data on nontrauma patients. The risk of venous thromboembolism increases in the presence of spinal trauma with or without injury to the spinal cord. Currently, the most frequently used methods of venous thromboembolism prophylaxis do not offer a proven benefit over no prophylaxis.

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