

Reviewer's report

Title: Complications Related to Deep Venous Thrombosis Prophylaxis in Trauma: A Review of the Literature

Version: 1 **Date:** 19 August 2009

Reviewer: Patrick Tawadros

Reviewer's report:

This report comprises an excellent and comprehensive review of the literature relating to complications of DVT prophylaxis in trauma patients. Reference is made to key papers in the field including current American College of Chest Physician guidelines. Detailed analysis of the leading complications relating to pharmacologic, mechanical and IVC filter methods of prophylaxis is performed and well summarized in tables. This review will benefit and guide clinicians in making optimal decisions in the management of DVT prophylaxis for trauma patients.

Minor essential revisions:

1. In the second paragraph of the Filter Migration section, reference is made to Table 1. I believe you meant Table 5.

Discretionary comment:

The role for DVT prophylaxis in trauma patients is well established. In this paper, in addition to a review of the complications related to LMWH versus UH, a comprehensive review of the complications related to second line means of DVT prophylaxis is also presented. A rate of bleeding related to mechanical prophylaxis is calculated at 2.6%, and a rate of insertion-related complications for retrievable IVC filters is also calculated to be 2.6%. In the absence of specific contraindications related to the use of either mechanical devices or IVC filters, I wonder if the authors would care to speculate on the currently recommended preference for mechanical devices over IVC filters, when pharmacologic prophylaxis is contraindicated.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests