

Knee surgery

Q In knee surgery, can the calf garment be applied directly after surgery (even if there is a bandage around the knee)?

A Pre, intra and post-operative use of the FLOWTRON® DVT system is recommended for optimal effectiveness of the product. Intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC) is recommended to be used from once a risk of DVT is identified and then used continuously until the risk goes away (this usually means fully ambulant), therefore it should ideally be used during the operation and not just post operatively. If the surgeon is operating on one knee, a garment can be used on the single leg option on the non-operative leg. The global fibrinolytic effects of IPC (Morris and Woodcock 2004, Morris et al 2006) will still be protecting the patient and there is no problem of the garment interfering with the operative site. Post-operatively the garment can be applied to the operative limb; in the case of knee surgery, a foot garment may be the best option.

References:

Morris RJ and Woodcock JP (2004). Evidence based compression. Prevention of stasis and deep vein thrombosis. *Annals of Surgery*; 239 (2): 162-171

Morris RJ, Giddings JC, Ralis HM et al (2006). The influence of inflation rate on the hematologic and hemodynamic effects of intermittent pneumatic calf compression for deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*; 44: 1039-1040

The answers to the commonly asked questions may inform and guide but they are not a substitute for holistic patient assessment and clinical judgment. If you cannot find an answer for which you are looking, please register your query at www.act-club.info