

Re-starting therapy

Q After a period of non-use, can the FLOWTRON® garments be re-applied and therapy re-started without concern that a DVT might have formed?

A The FLOWTRON DVT system can only prevent stasis when it is applied and working on the leg/foot. Although there are longer term haematological changes, which persist when the therapy is paused, it is unpredictable for individual patients and depends on multiple factors (Morris and Woodcock 2004, 2006). The general advice is that the FLOWTRON DVT system should only be stopped if the patient is mobilising, or for short periods of time. If a longer time period occurs, then FLOWTRON DVT prophylaxis should only be recommenced if there are no clinical signs/symptoms of DVT (redness, swelling, pain etc). In the event of possible clinical signs/symptoms, screening for DVT using Duplex ultrasound should be performed.

Given the wide variation in individual risk factors and co-morbidities, it is not possible to indicate a 'safe' period within which therapy can be restarted.

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: 1039-1045

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