Acute DVT

Q Why is the use of the FLOWTRON® system contraindicated in patients with an acute Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)?

A The risk of causing a pulmonary embolism (PE) when applying intermittent compression to a leg with an existing DVT is still a theoretical one. There is very little published information to help confirm whether this is a real risk and, for ethical reasons, it is not possible to test the effects of Intermittent Pneumatic Compression (IPC) on patients with DVT prospectively. There is only one case report which suggested a link, but the authors could not be sure what caused the PE (Siddiqui et al 2000).

We consider that the risk of PE may be probably low, but the potential danger to the patient may be high if such an event were to occur; therefore take the cautious route and contraindicate the use of the IPC in patients with acute DVT.

Reference:

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