



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

DVT Prophylaxis in Emergency General Surgery

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Highlights:

- Emergency surgery increases the incidence of VTE in patients and appropriate DVT prophylaxis is important for preventing VTE
 - VTE incidence 2-fold higher in emergent setting vs elective operation
 - Study from 1996 found VTE rate of 22% in placebo group vs 8% in LMWH group
- Obesity is a significant risk factor for VTE in emergency general surgery and occurs at a higher rate when compared to normal BMI patients
 - Obese patients have 1.7-fold higher rate of VTE than normal weight patients
 - Low BMI patients also have higher rate of VTE
- Standard dosing of LMWH may not be appropriate for all patients and once daily dosing may not be adequate (esp in obese patients)
- Extending DVT prophylaxis in some EGS patients may decrease risk for VTE but patient selection regarding who is most likely to benefit is not known