



WORLD THROMBOSIS DAY
13 OCTOBER

isth
International Society on
Thrombosis and Haemostasis

ALL ABOUT PULMONARY EMBOLISM (PE)

PE is a sudden blockage in a lung artery. The blockage is usually caused by a blood clot that travels to the lung from a vein in the leg, also known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

A clot that forms in one part of the body and travels in the bloodstream to another part of the body is called an embolus.

PE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



Shortness of breath
and/or rapid breathing



Rapid heart
rate



Coughing up
blood and/or
lightheadedness



Chest pain
(may be worse upon
deep breath)

HOW A PE IS DIAGNOSED

- Blood test that looks for a protein called **D-dimer**
- **Computerized tomography pulmonary angiography (CTPA)** to see the blood vessels in the lungs
- Ventilation-perfusion scan, also called a **V/Q scan** or **isotope lung scanning**, to examine the flow of air and blood in the lungs
- Leg vein ultrasound to confirm there is a clot in the leg

VTE RISK FACTORS



Surgery and/or hospitalization,
as well as up to 90 days after
discharge



Being in the
hospital and
90 days after
discharge



Pregnancy
and up to
6 weeks
postpartum



Family
history



Estrogen-
containing
medicines



Obesity



Prolonged
immobility



Cancer