



ASH ISTH Guidelines for Treatment of Pediatric Venous Thromboembolism



What it covers

- Treating venous thromboembolism (VTE) in pediatric patients



Why it matters

- The incidence of VTE in children at a population level is very low, but it is higher in hospitalized children (in fact, hospital acquired VTE is said to be the second most common cause of preventable harm in hospitalized children – behind infection).
- Risk benefit ratio of VTE treatment changes in children of different ages.
- Treating children is an entirely different paradigm to adults. Rather than trying to “fix” what is broken, treatment is aimed at preserving and unlocking long life potential.
- Children are one of the most challenging patient populations to treat because VTE almost always occurs in the context of another serious diagnosis that also must be treated. Holistic care in social, mental as well as medical context is critical.
- Research in pediatric VTE is limited.
- Considerable evidence remains extrapolated from adult practice.



Who it affects

- Very ill children, newborns through 18 years of age; most common in small children and teenagers
- Pediatricians, pediatric hematologists, pediatric oncologists, pediatric intensivists, and neonatologists



What are the highlights

- Sometimes deep vein thrombosis (DVT) causes symptoms, and sometimes it is found incidentally in an imaging study for something else. These guidelines inform how to treat these different situations.
- Where appropriate, differences for neonates, children and adolescents are articulated.
- These are the first evidence based guidelines for VTE treatment in children which include the Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs).
- Guidance on optimal use of anticoagulant drugs in children is provided to support the formal recommendations.
- Due to the low level of existing evidence, additional research is required to develop more evidence-based care recommendations.

Total number of panel recommendations: 20

REFERENCE

Monagle P, Azzam M, Bercovitz R, et al. American Society of Hematology/International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis 2025 updated guidelines for treatment of venous thromboembolism in pediatric patients. Blood Advances. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1182/bloodadvances.2024015328>

For more information on the ASH Clinical Practice Guidelines on Venous Thromboembolism, visit www.hematology.org/VTEguidelines

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) (www.hematology.org) is the world's largest professional society of hematologists dedicated to furthering the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders affecting the blood. For more than 50 years, the Society has led the development of hematology as a discipline by promoting research, patient care, education, training, and advocacy in hematology.

The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) (www.isth.org) is a leading international professional society who advances the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of conditions related to thrombosis and hemostasis.