

Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia



What it covers

- A rare and serious adverse drug reaction that increases a patient's risk of developing venous or arterial thromboembolism, which may be limb- or life-threatening



Why it matters

- Suspected heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) cases in hospitalized patients is the most frequently requested hematologist consult by other physicians.
- HIT can lead to amputation or death – for every day treatment is delayed, there is a ~6% risk of new thrombosis, amputation, and death.
- HIT is frequently misdiagnosed and over diagnosed.
- 12 million U.S. patients receive heparin each year, up to 1% of whom will develop HIT.



Who it affects

- Surgical patients most commonly, especially those undergoing cardiac surgery
- Hospitalists, surgeons, and cardiologists



What are the highlights

- Using a clinical scoring system, the 4Ts score, rather than a gestalt approach will improve the accuracy of diagnosis and patient outcomes.
- Treatment options include not only conventional agents such as argatroban, bivalirudin, and danaparoid, but also newer agents such as fondaparinux and the direct oral anticoagulants.

Total number of panel recommendations: 32

REFERENCE

Cuker, A., Arepally, G. M., Chong, B. H., Cines, D. B., Greinacher, A., Gruel, Y., Linkins, L. A., Rodner, S. B., Selleng, S., Warkentin, T. E., Wex, A., Mustafa, R. A., Morgan, R. L., & Santesso, N. (2018). *American Society of Hematology 2018 guidelines for management of venous thromboembolism: heparin-induced thrombocytopenia*. *Blood Advances*, 2:3360-3392.

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

ASH guidelines are reviewed annually by expert work groups convened by ASH. Resources derived from guidelines that require updating are removed from the ASH website.

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 60 years, the Society has led the development of hematology as a discipline by promoting research, patient care, education, training, and advocacy in hematology.

