Venous Thromboembolism comprises the continuum of DVT to pulmonary thromboembolism. DVT is the precursor of pulmonary emboli, therefore the risk factors for DVT are the same for pulmonary embolus and the treatment is essentially similar, however patients with an initial PE have a higher 1 month mortality and are 3 times more likely to have a recurrent PE than patients presenting with an isolated DVT.
Epidemiology

• Estimated incidence rate of 1/1000 person years in the general population
• Occurrence of VTE in HIV-infected persons 0.19-7.3%/year (2-10 fold higher risk)
• Pregnancy: Annual incidence in HIV infected women during puerperium 313/1000 person years (157 fold higher compared to HIV negative pregnant women, 120 fold higher than HIV infected controls)
Diagnosis

- Symptoms in HIV are the same.
- In large series < 30% with typical symptoms had confirmed DVT.
- HIV infected patients may have symptoms related to other HIV associated conditions such as neuropathy, hypoproteinaemia and respiratory infections.
Clinical Decision Rules

- Unknown generalizability to HIV infected population
- D-dimers raised in 40-60% of hospitalized medical patients. May be raised in HIV infection
Diagnostic imaging
Treatment

• Isolated Distal DVT: Serial imaging for 2/52
  Or anticoagulation for 3/12
• Proximal DVT or PE with temporary risk factor: anticoagulation for 3/13
• Unprovoked DVT or PE: anticoagulation for 3/12 consider extending duration in patients at low to moderate risk for bleeding
• Consider extension beyond 3/12 HERDOO2
Choice of anticoagulant

• Initial parenteral, SC LMWH (or IV UFH if renal dysfunction)
• Oral Vitamin K antagonist started early (same day)
• Continue parenteral anticoagulation for a minimum of 5 days and INR >2 for at least 24hrs
Problems with VKA

- Individual variation
- Drug interactions: Rifampicin, Protease Inhibitors, NNRTIs
- Case series of HIV infected persons on oral VKA in an urban primary care setting found 71.6% of INR measurements were outside the therapeutic range with 51.5% being below and 21.2% above the range. INRANGE study 40.4% of INRs out of range.
Direct Oral Anticoagulants

- Dabigatran (Pradaxa): direct thrombin inhibitor. Absorption mediated by P-glycoprotein. Avoid with P-gp inhibitors: Protease Inhibitors and P-gp inducers: rifampicin and tenofovir
• Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) direct factor Xa inhibitor. Absorption mediated by P-glycoprotein. Metabolism mediated by CYP3A4.
• Avoid with: Protease inhibitors, rifampicin, rifabutin, efavirenz, neveripine, etravirine
• DOACs: no routine therapeutic monitoring available. Not reversible.
Summary

• HIV infection is prothrombotic and prevention is essential.
• VTE common in HIV, especially low CD4 cell count, hospitalization and Oi’s such as TB and PCP and prophylaxis should be used.
• Traditional Clinical Decision rules are not appropriate.
• Therapy is difficult and duration should be individualized.