

Recommendations from the ICM-VTE: Sports

The ICM-VTE Sports Delegates*

1- Concerning VTE risk, which surgeries can be considered major, and which surgeries can be considered non-major in orthopaedic sports surgery?

Response/Recommendation: Overall, venous thromboembolism (VTE) incidence in sports surgery is low, and risk of VTE increases with immobilization and non-weight bearing. For this reason, upper extremity sports procedures are considered non-major concerning VTE risk due to the low impact on patient ambulation and post-operative mobility. Lower extremity procedures can be considered non-major if patients can weight bear and mobilize post-operatively. Patients undergoing lower extremity sports procedures that places weight bearing restriction and/or limits ambulation may be considered major.

Strength of recommendation: Consensus.

Delegates vote: Agree 96.15% Disagree 0.0% Abstain 3.85% (Strong Consensus).

Rationale: There have been several large cohort studies looking at overall risk of symptomatic VTE in common orthopaedic sports procedures¹⁻⁵ with overall a much lower incidence of VTE in this patient population than those undergoing trauma or arthroplasty procedures⁶⁻⁹. Despite this, VTE still remains an important, and potentially fatal, complication of orthopaedic surgery which warrants investigations. In 2012, the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) published guidelines on VTE prevention in patients undergoing knee arthroscopy, recommending that no thromboprophylaxis is needed in these patients⁷. There have not been significant revisions to these guidelines since their publication.

Risks for VTE after orthopaedic sports procedures have been described in various studies. While duration of surgery has been shown to be a risk factor in patients who develop VTE¹⁰, this risk factor is not universally accepted as a reliable metric for determining the overall risk of a patient for VTE. Several studies have shown that orthopaedic procedures which require postoperative immobilization put patients at an increased risk of developing symptomatic VTE^{11,12}. Additionally, patients who are required to be non-weightbearing on their operative extremity have been shown to have increased incidence of VTE postoperatively¹³. These

factors were taken into account when formulating our recommendation above.

Upper extremity procedures in sports medicine primarily consist of open and arthroscopic shoulder and elbow procedures, of which VTE risk is reported to be a rare complication. Systematic reviews report the incidence of VTE to be 0.038% to 0.3% after shoulder arthroscopic procedures^{4,14}. Weight-bearing restrictions are not as provocative for VTE formation in patients, as they typically do not significantly hinder ambulation, which has been shown to decrease VTE risk^{15,16}. Upper limb immobilization was not found to increase VTE risk, with literature reporting only two cases of thrombosis of the arm after shoulder arthroscopy and immobilization on a total of 10,452 cases^{17,18}.

Lower extremity orthopaedic sports medicine procedures are very diverse in nature and severity. Arthroscopic and open procedures about the hip, including labral repair and reconstruction, osteochondroplasty procedures, and tendon repairs such as of the gluteus medius or proximal hamstring are more recently being treated with accelerated early weight-bearing and range of motion¹⁹⁻²¹. While there is a paucity of studies specifically evaluating the incidence of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) following these procedures, a recent systematic review estimated the risk in patients undergoing hip arthroscopy to be ~ 2%⁵. Similarly, for hamstring avulsion repair the estimated VTE incidence was found to be 0.5%²².

Knee arthroscopy is one of the most common procedures in all of orthopaedics, and concomitant procedures can include anterior and/o posterior cruciate ligament repair/reconstruction, meniscus excision/repair/transplantation, osteochondral defect fixation/drilling/grafting, among others. The reported incidence of DVT without prophylaxis after knee arthroscopy varies from 0.2% to 18%, with higher rates detected when screening asymptomatic patients²³⁻²⁵. The higher-than-expected rate of DVT in knee arthroscopy without prophylaxis, has led some studies to recommend chemoprophylaxis after this procedure²⁶⁻²⁹. Nevertheless, consensus on VTE prophylaxis after knee arthroscopy has not been reached and varies by country. In the US, the ACCP guidelines suggest no VTE prophylaxis is necessary for

*A list of the ICM-VTE Sports Delegates is included in a note at the end of the article.

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arthroscopic knee procedures for patients without prior history of VTE⁷. For open procedures about the knee such as high tibial osteotomy (HTO), distal femoral osteotomy (DFO), and tibial tubercle osteotomy (TTO) the reported VTE risk varies over a wide range depending on inclusion of asymptomatic VTE. HTO has a reported VTE incidence that ranges from 2.4 - 41%^{30,31}. A recent study by Erickson et al., estimated symptomatic VTE rates after HTO, DFO or TTO to be less than 2%³². Currently, there is no consensus regarding thromboprophylaxis in HTO, DFO or TTO, however given the need for prolonged restricted weight-bearing, administration of VTE prophylaxis may need to be considered in this patient population.

In conclusion, the overall VTE risk is very low in patients undergoing orthopaedic sports surgery. Based on expert opinion and limited evidence, upper extremity sports medicine procedures should be considered non-major concerning VTE risk due to their low impact on ambulation and postoperative mobility. Similarly, lower extremity procedures for which patients are allowed to bear weight and mobilize postoperatively should be considered non-major. Lower extremity procedures for which patients have their weight-bearing restricted or their operative extremity immobilized in the postoperative period should be considered major as it pertains to VTE risk. Although rare, knee sports surgeries have a slightly higher VTE risk with VTE prophylaxis recommended based on risk stratification. For this reason, knee procedures in which patients are non-weight bearing and immobilized are considered major, while all other ones with no limitations on weight-bearing and range of motion are considered non-major.

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2- Is routine VTE prophylaxis required for patients undergoing knee arthroscopy who will be allowed to fully weight bear after surgery?

Response/Recommendation: There is insufficient evidence to recommend routine thromboprophylaxis to all otherwise healthy patients undergoing a knee arthroscopic procedure.

Strength of Recommendation: Moderate.

Delegates vote: Agree 96.15% Disagree 0.00% Abstain 3.85% (Strong Consensus).

Rationale: Knee arthroscopy (KA) is the most common outpatient orthopaedic procedure worldwide. Approximately 1 million knee arthroscopies are performed annually in the US, and 5 million worldwide^{33,34}. Despite the high prevalence of this intervention, the risk of symptomatic venous thromboembolism (VTE), including deep venous thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolus (PE), following the procedure is extremely low¹. In addition, consideration must be given to the fact that thromboprophylaxis is not without its risks, with many reports of minor or major bleeding in the literature³⁵.

In a recent meta-analysis of seven randomized controlled trials (RCT), Huang et al.³⁶, found that the use of low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) after KA was not associated with reduced rates of symptomatic VTE. A subsequent systematic review and meta-analysis by the same authors included all RCT reporting the use of other types of anticoagulants (rivaroxaban and aspirin [ASA]) and found that these agents were also ineffective in the prevention of VTE as compared to no thromboprophylaxis³⁷.

In regards to patients undergoing KA ligament reconstruction, thromboprophylaxis should take into account the patient's risk factors³⁸⁻⁴⁰. Perrotta et al., performed a meta-analysis of eight RCT and controlled clinical trials with 3,818 patients, comparing different thromboprophylactic methods in patients who had undergone KA procedures. While their results suggested that LMWH could reduce the incidence of asymptomatic DVT, there was no clear benefit of LMWH, ASA or rivaroxaban over placebo or no intervention in the prevention of PE or symptomatic DVT. They also found no difference in the rate of adverse events such as major or minor bleeding but acknowledged that the data for this endpoint was limited due to low number of events⁴⁰.

In evaluating the efficacy and safety of anticoagulants after KA, Yu et al.⁴¹, performed another systematic review and meta-analysis, which included 4,097 patients. They concluded that anticoagulants could effectively reduce the overall risk of VTE after KA, although the increased risk of bleeding should be

considered. They also found that the Number Needed to Harm (NNH) for any bleeding event was 20 and the NNH for a major bleeding or fatal event was 869.

In light of the evidence presented above, it is the recommendation of this workgroup that there is not sufficient data to recommend thromboprophylaxis to all otherwise healthy patients undergoing KA who will be weight-bearing postoperatively. This question still remains valid when encountering patients with procoagulant comorbidities, or those who are taking oral contraceptives (e.g., younger patients undergoing anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction). More research is needed to clarify if routine prophylaxis should be indicated in this group of individuals^{38,41}, and prophylactic measures should be individualized, taking into account all the risk factors present at the time of the surgical intervention.

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3- What is the most optimal VTE prophylaxis for patients undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery who are instructed to remain non-weight bearing for a prolonged period of time?

Response/Recommendation: There are no studies in the literature that have specifically investigated the correlation between non-weightbearing after knee arthroscopy and the incidence of venous thromboembolism (VTE). Consequently, no specific prophylactic measures have been recommended for this patient population. Considering that non-weight bearing is a known risk factor for VTE, we support the routine use of

VTE prophylaxis in these patients unless a high risk of bleeding is present or postoperative bleeding occurs.

Strength of Recommendation: Consensus.

Delegates vote: Agree 92.00% Disagree 4.00% Abstain 4.00% (Strong Consensus).

Rationale: Knee arthroscopy (KA) is one of the most common orthopaedic procedures performed worldwide, with an estimated 4 million surgeries performed each year⁴². One of the most frequent complication, and the most common cause of perioperative mortality after KA is VTE^{43,44}. The incidence of VTE after KA has been reported to be 0.4% when clinically diagnosed and up to 17.9% when screening asymptomatic patients⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸. The largest retrospective cohort study in the literature (n = 20,770) showed a ninety-day incidence of 0.02% for pulmonary embolism (PE) and 0.25% for deep venous thrombosis (DVT) in patients undergoing KA without thromboembolic prophylaxis⁴⁹. When diagnosed with ultrasound or venography, a previous meta-analysis found an overall DVT rate of 9.9% and a proximal DVT rate of 2.1% in KA patients who did not receive prophylaxis⁵⁰.

Although the main purpose of VTE prophylaxis is to avoid fatal PE, DVT alone can lead to substantial pain and swelling, as well as the development of post-thrombotic syndrome. This complication occurs in the lower extremities in approximately 30% of symptomatic DVT patients within 5 years of surgery⁵¹. Despite this, the use of VTE prophylaxis following KA procedures is controversial, and current recommendations vary across different countries⁵²⁻⁵⁹. A recent Cochrane Systematic Review and four separate meta-analyses concluded that the incidence of PE and symptomatic DVT following KA was not reduced with the use of low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH), aspirin (ASA) or rivaroxaban (moderate- to low-evidence)^{43,60-63}. On the other hand, LMWH use may reduce the risk of asymptomatic DVT when compared to no treatment, and a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials (RCT) concluded that anticoagulants could reduce the overall incidence of VTE in patients undergoing KA^{42,43,47,64-68}. The authors estimated that, in order to prevent one symptomatic or asymptomatic VTE, the Number Needed to Treat (NNT) was 26, and one major or fatal bleeding event could occur with every 869 patients treated with VTE prophylaxis (Number Needed to Harm [NNH] = 869)⁶⁴. The conflicting conclusions regarding VTE prophylaxis underscores the need to consider the specific KA procedure performed and the post-operative protocol implemented^{62,69}.

There is a lack of studies investigating the risk of VTE in patients undergoing KA procedures that require a period of non-weight-bearing after surgery. Consequently, there may be a risk of underestimating the efficacy of DVT and VTE prophylaxis according to different KA procedures⁷⁰. For example, Kosiur et al.⁷¹, studied 567 osteochondral autograft transfer surgery (OATS) patients who were provided different instructions for non-weight-bearing after surgery. Overall, 68 patients were instructed not to bear weight for 4 weeks post-

operatively (29 of which had a concomitant anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction), while 437 were allowed to bear weight as tolerated immediately after surgery. Thromboembolic prophylaxis was not provided to any patient. The authors found a significant difference between the incidence of DVT in patients who were non-weight-bearing (3.0%) and in those who were allowed to bear weight as tolerated (0.69%). Only one patient developed a PE in the non-weight-bearing group (1.5%), whereas no patients developed a PE in the weight-bearing as tolerated group.

Although current literature does not focus on non-weight-bearing KA procedures in particular, the use of LMWH, rivaroxaban and ASA as thromboembolic prophylaxis appears to be safe (moderate-certainty evidence) and logical in high-risk patients⁴³. It has been shown that a higher incidence of VTE after KA is associated with patient-specific risk factors, such as classic VTE risk factors, be it genetic or acquired^{58,70,72}. Age is considered a significant risk factor, with patients 50 years of age or older having a 1.54 times greater risk of VTE (LoE II)⁴⁹. Also, ligament reconstruction, more complex procedures (cartilage or meniscal repair), and prolonged surgical and tourniquet time have been identified as possible VTE risk factors^{46,49,58,73,74}.

Overall, there is a paucity of research on the optimal VTE prophylaxis regime for patients undergoing non-weight-bearing KA procedures, and thus the current recommendations are based on expert consensus on general KA literature. Due to the significantly increased incidence of DVT in non-weight-bearing patients (3.0% vs. 0.7%), the NNT and NNH can be assumed to be much smaller for non-weight-bearing patients relative to data on overall KA (NNT = 26, NNH = 869)⁶⁴. Until further evidence is available, clinicians should consider utilizing LMWH, rivaroxaban or ASA after non-weight-bearing KA procedures such as autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI), OATS, microfracture, or meniscal repair in order to limit the thrombotic risk associated with prolonged non-weight-bearing. Future research should focus on preventing VTE specifically after non-weight-bearing KA procedures, rather than pooling all KA procedures together regardless of weight-bearing status. Clinical trials comparing different VTE prophylactic agents should be performed to determine the optimal drug and dosage to be administered.

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4- What is the most optimal VTE prophylaxis for patients undergoing ACL reconstruction?

Response/Recommendation: There is a small risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) following anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction in healthy adult patients. There is moderate- to low-evidence supporting the use of low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH), aspirin (ASA) or rivaroxaban in the prevention of pulmonary embolism (PE) and symptomatic deep venous thrombosis (DVT). Similarly, there is a very low level of evidence supporting the use of LMWH in preventing asymptomatic DVT when compared to no treatment. No difference in the rate of adverse events (including major and minor bleeding) between LMWH, ASA and rivaroxaban has been shown, although data on this safety endpoint is limited due to low numbers of events in existing studies. To this end, appropriate risk stratification, considering factors such as medical comorbidities, weight-bearing status, and the use of immobilization, is therefore necessary.

Strength of Recommendation: Moderate.

Delegates vote: Agree 100.00% Disagree 0.0% Abstain 0.00% (Unanimous Strong Consensus).

Rationale: There is lack of high-quality studies on the optimal VTE prophylaxis for ACL reconstruction patients postoperatively. In general, the incidence of VTE after ACL reconstruction is low, although complications can be devastating. Gaskill et al.⁷⁵, analyzed the United States Military Health-care System (MHS) database across a seven-year period, which included 16,558 patients with a mean age of 29 years. The authors found that the risk of VTE was 0.53% (0.33% DVT and

0.21% PE). Jameson et al.⁷⁶, used the English National Health Service (NHS) database and found an incidence of VTE of 0.4% in 13,941 patients, with a mean age of 29 years in patients who underwent ACL reconstruction. Maletis et al.⁷⁷, analyzed the Kaiser Permanente ACL reconstruction registry and reported an incidence of VTE of 0.3% in 16,192 patients with a mean age of 30 years. An increased odds of VTE was identified in patients aged ≥ 35 years with a history of nicotine use, anticoagulant use, concomitant high tibial osteotomy, concomitant posterior cruciate ligament reconstruction, tourniquet time of more than 120 minutes and an operating time of more than 90 minutes^{75,78}.

Thromboprophylaxis recommendations after knee arthroscopic surgery vary from one country to another. According to the guidelines of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)⁷⁹, the risk associated with arthroscopic surgery has been considered to be low, and while some societies have advocated for routine thromboprophylaxis after ACL reconstruction, the ACCP guidelines recommend against its routine use after arthroscopic procedures except in patients with previous VTE^{76,78,80}. Although the ACCP guidelines do recommend routine thromboprophylaxis for “major” orthopaedic procedures⁷⁹, as arthroscopic procedures become more common and complex, the line between basic arthroscopic and “major” orthopaedic procedures is becoming more ambiguous. The National Institute for Clinical Health and Excellence (NICE) guidelines do not recommend the thromboprophylaxis after knee arthroscopy if the surgery is below 90 minutes and the patients is at low risk⁸¹. In contrast, pharmacological prophylaxis after knee arthroscopic surgery is recommended by the French Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care⁸². Also, according to a recent survey in Germany, most surgeons use anticoagulants as routine thromboprophylaxis after outpatient arthroscopic procedures of the knee⁸³.

LMWH is a very common anticoagulant used after knee arthroscopy. In a meta-analysis of 8 randomized clinical trials (RCT) including 4,113 patients performed by Zhu et al.⁸⁴, the authors found that LMWH had efficacy in preventing VTE (relative risk [RR], 0.22 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.06 - 0.73; $p = .01$) for patients mainly undergoing ACL reconstruction and did not increase the risk of bleeding (RR, 1.12 95% CI, 0.72 - 1.74). Interestingly, they found that LMWH was conversely not effective in preventing VTE in patients undergoing simple knee arthroscopy and increased the risk of bleeding (RR, 1.64 95% CI, 1.18 - 2.28). In an RCT study by Marlovits et al.⁸⁵, on 175 ACL reconstruction patients receiving enoxaparin 40 mg once daily 12 to 18 hours pre-surgery and 3 to 8 days post-surgery, patients were randomized to 40 mg enoxaparin ($n = 87$) or placebo ($n = 88$) once daily for 20 days. DVT was confirmed by magnetic resonance venography (MRV) at the end of the study period (23 to 28 days after surgery). Two DVT (2.8%) were detected in the enoxaparin group vs. 28 (41.2%) in placebo group, including 1 (1.4%) proximal DVT in the enoxaparin group vs. 6 (8.8%) in the placebo group. None of the patients developed PE postoperatively. No major bleeding occurred, and minor bleeding rate was similar in both groups.

As an alternative antithrombotic agent, ASA has been widely used in orthopaedic surgery. Kaye et al.⁸⁶, conducted an RCT on a series of 170 arthroscopy patients (23 ACL reconstruction) and compared a group of 63 patients who were given ASA 325 mg for 14 days with 104 patients who were given no medical prophylaxis. No VTE event was detected based on bilateral, whole leg, compression venous duplex ultrasonography 10 to 14 days postoperatively. Similarly, Muñoa et al.⁸⁷, compared medical prophylaxis (rivaroxaban or Bemiparin) vs. mechanical prophylaxis (compression stocking) and did not find any VTE events in their small series of 60 ACL reconstruction patients.

In contrast, Perrotta et al.⁸⁸, updated their previous systematic review of pharmacological or non-pharmacological interventions to reduce thromboembolic risk after knee arthroscopy. They concluded that for the outcome of PE and symptomatic DVT in low-risk patients undergoing knee arthroscopic procedures, there was moderate to very low-certainty evidence of no clear benefit regarding the use of LMWH, ASA or rivaroxaban compared to placebo or no intervention for VTE prevention. Interestingly, the incidence of symptomatic DVT was higher in the compression stocking group compared to LMWH, ASA and rivaroxaban. Compression stocking had a 2% incidence of symptomatic DVT, while the literature reports an incidence below 0.5%⁸⁸. Schmitz et al., used data from the Swedish Knee Ligament Register (SKLR) between 2006 and 2013, and analyzed 26,014 primary and revision ACL reconstruction. They found no difference in the incidence of VTE between those with and those without thromboprophylaxis⁷⁸, and recommended against the routine use of thromboprophylaxis, except older patients. Further, in an RCT involving 1,451 patients undergoing arthroscopy of the knee, thromboprophylaxis with LMWH for 8 days after knee arthroscopy conferred no benefit⁸⁹. Interestingly, using the MHS data⁷⁵, 147 patients (0.89%) who received thromboprophylaxis were found to have an increased risk of VTE. This unanticipated finding suggests that the patients receiving thromboprophylaxis had probably been those deemed to have an increased risk of VTE. The authors nonetheless concluded that they could not recommend routine thromboprophylaxis for patients undergoing arthroscopic surgery of the knee.

The routine use of thromboprophylaxis is not without risks, which must be taken into account when deciding to prescribe anticoagulants to knee arthroscopy patients. Bleeding adverse events following below-knee surgery is significantly higher (odds ratio 2.79) in patients receiving thromboprophylaxis compared to those receiving no prophylaxis⁹⁰. To this end, appropriate risk stratification, considering factors such as medical comorbidities, weight-bearing status, and the use of immobilization, is therefore necessary when deciding whether to prescribe VTE prophylaxis to knee arthroscopy patients after surgery.

Mohammad S Abdelaal, Usama H. Saleh, Hamed Vahedi

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5- Do patients undergoing hip arthroscopy require routine VTE prophylaxis?

Response/Recommendation: The risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) after hip arthroscopy (HA) is low and routine VTE prophylaxis is not required. In patients with particular risk factors, VTE prophylaxis might be considered.

Strength of Recommendation: Limited.

Delegates vote: Agree 92.31% Disagree 7.69% Abstain 0.00% (Strong Consensus)

Rationale: The use of arthroscopic techniques in and around the hip has rapidly increased in recent years^{91,92}. For some conditions, such as femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) syndrome, there is randomized controlled trial evidence of the clinical effectiveness of HA⁹³. The risk of complications, including VTE, following HA is low⁹⁴. In order to answer the question whether patients undergoing HA require routine VTE prophylaxis, we conducted a comprehensive systematic review of the available literature (Table I). Most studies related to this subject matter are of low methodological quality⁹⁵: retrospective case reports or series⁹⁶⁻¹⁰⁵ or national guidelines^{106,107}. There are three retrospective database studies that specifically evaluated the incidence of symptomatic VTE after HA^{100,108,109}. Three prospective cohort studies used ultrasound screening to identify asymptomatic VTE¹¹⁰⁻¹¹². Four previous systematic reviews found that their conclusions were limited by overall low-quality evidence, incomplete reporting, and poor definition of surgical and patient risk factors, and by heterogeneity of procedures performed, type and duration of prophylaxis, and method of detection of VTE events¹¹³⁻¹¹⁶.

The overall risk of VTE, after HA, was reported to be between 0.2% to 9.5%^{96,97,100,102,103,105,109,111,112,116,117}. Symptomatic deep venous thrombosis (DVT) rates were 0.4-3.5%^{96,98,108,110,112,113,115,117}, whilst the rate of asymptomatic DVT detected by ultrasound screening was 6.9%²¹. The risk of pulmonary embolism (PE) was 0.08-1.5%^{96,97,108,113,115} with a mortality rate of 0.02%¹⁰⁸. Some studies attempted to identify risk factors for VTE among patients undergoing HA that included smoking, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), age, obesity, oral contraceptive use, history of trauma, prolonged intraoperative traction or prolonged postoperative immobilization¹¹⁷. No prospective cohort studies had adequate sample size to explore these suggested risk factors. One retrospective database study of 9,477 patients⁹⁶, identified age \geq 45, obesity, smoking, diabetes and COPD as independent risk factors, but neither gender nor oral contraceptive use were risk factors for VTE after HA.

Based on our review of the literature, no clinical trial to evaluate the effectiveness of thromboprophylaxis in patients undergoing HA was identified. One systematic review¹¹⁶ explored the role of chemoprophylaxis in this patient population, that included aspirin (ASA), low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) or other unspecified drugs. The pooled VTE rate was 2.0% in patients with prophylaxis compared with 3.6% in those without, a difference which was not statistically significant. In a prospective study with 880 HA involved, high-risk VTE patients were treated with chemoprophylaxis and low-risk VTE patients with early mobilization and physiotherapy in first 24 hours. VTE rate in low-risk group was 0.16% and in high-risk group 1.2%¹¹⁷.

In conclusion, although the evidence is sparse, the risk of VTE after HA is low. Thus, based on available data routine administration of VTE prophylaxis for patients undergoing HA is not justified. Patients at higher risk of VTE, may benefit from the use of mechanical and/or chemical prophylaxis, that includes ASA.

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TABLE I Overview of the results of selected studies

Authors	Year	Number of patients	Description of patients	Comment	Procedures	Incidence VTE	Risk factors	Effect of prophylaxis
Khazi et al. ⁹⁶	2019	9,477	Age > 20 (77.5% age ≥ 45)	Retrospective study.	HA	Overall VTE: 0.77% at 1-month and 1.14% at 3-months. DVT: 0.57% at 1-month and 0.82% at 3-months. PE: 0.3% at 1-month and 0.43% at 3-months.	Risk factor: obesity, smoking, diabetes. No risk factor: age, gender in comparison VTE vs. No-VTE cohort at 90-days.	No info.
Malviya et al. ¹⁰⁸	2015	6,395	Age 38 (11-38)	Retrospective NHS database.	HA 2005-2013	0.08% (5/6,395) for both 90-day DVT and PE rate 0.08%)	No info.	No info.
Bushnell et al. ¹¹⁴	2008	5,554	No info.	Review 27 papers 1797-2007	HA	0%	No info.	No info.
Bolia et al. ¹¹⁵	2018	4,577	Age 36 ± 1.8	Systematic review 2000-2017, 28 studies. Remark on publication bias.	HA for FAI	1.18%; 95% CI [0.8-1.74%] for DVT, 0.59%; 95% CI [0.38-0.92%] for PE. When corrected for publication bias: 2.02% for DVT (Small studies with low DVT rates were more likely to be published than larger studies with low DVT rates).	No info.	No info.
Haldane et al. ¹¹⁶	2018	2,850	Age 40.7	Systematic review 14 papers (not included papers from 2016 to 2021) Only 2 studies level III/IV.	HA	2.0% (n 6/25 asymptomatic). To 3,6% (excluded 1 study 0% without treatment).	No clear statement about this topic	2.0% with prophylaxis vs. 4.2% without prophylaxis.
Truntzer et al. ¹⁰⁰	2017	2,581	Age not specified.	Retrospective	HA 2007-2014	0.79% (16)/2,581)	No info.	No info.
Nicolay et al. ⁹⁹	2019	2,023	Age of all pts 50.86 ± 14.6, 46.7% obese (27,8% of HA obese).	Retrospective. Not specified for HA	HA 2006-2016	Overall, 0,27% (382/all 141,335 scopes), not specified for HA.	All scopes (not specified for HA: overweight, BMI (OR 1.474) and class I obesity with DM (OR 1.469).	No info.
Larson et al. ¹⁰⁹	2016	1,615	Age 30.5 (12-76)	Retrospective.	HA	0.2% (3/1615)	DVT cases: clotting cascade disorder (n = 2) or arteriovenous anomaly (n = 1)	No pharmacological prophylaxis, except ASA (650 mg daily) for patients with a known thromboembolic history or clotting cascade disorder or those flying soon (within 3 weeks) after surgery.

continued

TABLE I (continued)

Authors	Year	Number of patients	Description of patients	Comment	Procedures	Incidence VTE	Risk factors	Effect of prophylaxis
Schüttler et al. ⁹⁸	2018	485	Age 43.9 (w/o range).	Retrospective, low quality.	HA 2006-2014	0,4% (2/484)	No info.	No info.
Seijas et al. ¹⁰⁴	2017	258	Age 36.6 ± 17.5 (18–61)	Retrospective (review of literature).	HA 2011-2014	0% (0/258)	Not studied.	Not studied (enoxaparin 10 days all patients).
Dutton et al. ¹⁰¹	2016	159	Military, age 30.9 ± 8.3 years (range, 18-52 years).	Retrospective.	HA 2000-2014	0% (0)	No info.	No info.
Niroopan et al. ¹¹³	2016	144	Trauma patients, age range, 10 to 53 years.	Systematic review 2015. 32 studies (25 case reports -7 case series).	HA after trauma	0,7% (1 PE/144 0,7%)	No info.	Not studied (PE case on LMWH)
Alaia et al. ¹¹⁰	2014	139	Age 37.7, all low risk VTE.	Case series. Use US only 58,3% cases. Only low VTE risk patients (exclude 5 high-risk). No VTE prophylaxis.	HA	1,4% symptomatic.	No clear statement about this topic.	No prophylaxis.
Mohtadi et al. ¹¹²	2016	115	Age 35.4 ± 10.3 (> 18).	Prospective, US.	HA	4.4% (5/115, 4/5 symptomatic.3,5%).	No statistically significant patient or surgical factors (not powered for).	Not studied (all without prophylaxis)
Chaharbakhshi et al. ¹⁰⁵	2019	107	Age 41.6 ± 9.8 (21-61) 42.7 ± 9.9 (20 – 58).	Retrospective.	HA + microfracture (2008-2014); (57 large 50 small defect).	2,8% (3/107).	Not studied (DVT only in large defect, but similar traction times).	No info (not routinely administered).
Bayley et al. ¹⁰²	2017	82	Age 20.4 ± 2.5 (16-25).	Retrospective.	HA 2005-2013	1,2% (1/82)	No info.	No info.
Fukushima et al. ¹¹¹	2016	72	Age 46,3 mean.	Not included in systematic review by Brown et al. ¹¹⁸ . Asymptomatic DVT. Recommended prophylaxis in "old " patients.	HA	6.94% ultrasound distal DVT (up to 7 days after surgery).	DVT mean age 62. No traction time or surgical time.	No prophylaxis.
Perets et al. ⁹⁷	2018	66	Athletes, age 21.4 ± 8.1.	Prospective case series. No info on prophylaxis.	HA 2009-2011	1,5% (1 PE /66)	No info.	No info.

continued

TABLE I (continued)

Authors	Year	Number of patients	Description of patients	Comment	Procedures	Incidence VTE	Risk factors	Effect of prophylaxis
Collins et al. ¹⁰³	2015	39	21 obese/ 18 non-obese patients; Age 38 ± 11.7 (21- 64).	Retrospective	HA 2009- 2012	5% (2/39) (9.5% 2/ 21 in obese, 0% 0/ 18 in non-obese)	Obesity? (Both DVT in obese).	Not studied: all on ASA 325 mg daily for 2 weeks.
Randelli et al. ¹⁰⁷	2013	0		Expert consensus of every orthopaedic procedure. No VTE Prophylaxis low risk patients. LMWH 7 days in high risk.	HA & others.	Up to 3.7% no prophylaxis (literature review).	No info.	No info.
Jenny et al. ¹⁰⁶	2020	0		Survey French surgeons: 69.3% (131/ 189) of surgeons: prophylaxis in >90% of cases.	HA		No info.	Not mentioned/ advised in SFAR guideline 2011.
Verhoogt et al. ¹¹⁷	2020	880		Two groups compared: High VTE risk vs. low VTE risk	HA		Oral contraceptives; BMI > 30kg/m ² ; Previous VTE; Family Story; Hormone replacement Therapy; DM; Cardiac Pathology; Steroids; Malignancy.	High-risk with pharmacological prophylaxis: 1.2%. Low-risk with early ambulation: 0.16%.

VTE=Venous thromboembolism; HA=Hip arthroplasty; DVT=Deep venous thrombosis; PE=Pulmonary embolism; NHS=National health service; FAI=Femoroacetabular impingement; CI=Confidence interval; BMI=Body mass index; OR=Odds ratio; DM=Diabetes mellitus; ASA=Aspirin; LMWH=Low-molecular-weight heparin; US=United States; SFAR= Société Française d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation.

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6- Should patients undergoing mini-open femoroacetabular osteoplasty receive routine VTE prophylaxis?

Response/Recommendation: There is dearth of data related to this question. Available evidence suggests that aspirin is an effective prophylactic agent against venous thromboembolism (VTE) in standard-risk patients undergoing mini-open femoroacetabular osteoplasty (FAO).

Strength of Recommendation: Low.

Delegates vote: Agree 88.46% Disagree 7.69% Abstain 3.85% (Strong Consensus)

Rationale: The majority of patients undergoing FAO are young, healthy, active, and may not be considered at high-risk for VTE¹¹⁹. The optimal VTE prophylaxis regimen after mini-open FAO remains unclear with little published on this subject matter^{120,121}. VTE prophylaxis after hip preservation procedures is not addressed by the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)¹²², the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) or any other guidelines. Hence, specific VTE prevention protocols are required to implement an optimal prophylaxis method after FAO. Azboy et al.¹²⁰ compared different VTE pharmacological prophylaxis in patients undergoing hip preservation surgery between 2003 and 2016. Their cohort had 603 patients who underwent mini-open FAO and 80 patients who underwent periacetabular osteotomy (PAO)¹²⁰. Their results demonstrated a symptomatic VTE rate of 0.16% and 1.1% after mini-open FAO and PAO surgery, respectively¹²⁰. There were no significant differences in symptomatic VTE rates in patients receiving warfarin, aspirin (ASA) 325 mg or ASA 81 mg, with no events of bleeding or hematoma formation¹²⁰. In a prospective case series of 407 consecutive patients who underwent mini-open FAO procedure, Tischler et al.¹²³, found that the rate of symptomatic VTE was 0.25% when ASA 325 mg daily dose was administered. The majority of the patients included in this cohort were young, healthy and active, and were ambulated within hours of their surgery¹²³. Based on institutional experience, a review study from the Rothman Institute recommended that ASA 81 mg two times daily is a safe and effective modality in minimizing the risk of VTE in patients undergoing hip preservation surgery¹¹⁹. Regarding patient factors, increased age, obesity, oral contraceptive use, trauma, and prolonged traction were identified as factors in patients who had VTE events after arthroscopic FAO procedures¹²⁴. However, it is unclear how these factors might contribute to the VTE events after mini-open FAO. Further research on potential risk factors for VTE and the optimal prophylaxis modality for FAO surgery via the mini-open approach is warranted.

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7- How should athletes receiving chemical anticoagulation for VTE prophylaxis or treatment of active VTE be managed?

Response/Recommendation: There is no consensus regarding the optimal management of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in athletes. Treatment of active VTE consists of early mobilization and uninterrupted anticoagulation for at least 3 months with abstinence from contact sports during the entire treatment duration. The choice of pharmacologic agent should be tailored according to patient-, physician-, and sport-related factors. However, some authors favor direct-acting oral anticoagulant agents (DOAC), which may allow earlier return to sport in athletes requiring prolonged anticoagulation. Athletes receiving treatment for active VTE may begin low-risk exercises (e.g., swimming) 3 weeks after initial diagnosis, progressing to full participation in non-contact sports at 6 weeks.

Strength of Recommendation: Consensus.

Delegates vote: Agree 100.00% Disagree 0.0% Abstain 0.00% (Unanimous Strong Consensus).

Rationale: While athletes are believed to have a low risk of VTE¹²⁵, this population is uniquely exposed to pro-thrombotic factors such as oral contraceptive use, prolonged travel, and immobilization after injury¹²⁶, often placing them at a higher risk than expected. One study by Erickson et al., demonstrated an 8% incidence of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) in athletes after arthroscopic anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction¹²⁷, and another cited VTE as a major cause of death in adolescent athletes across the United States¹²⁸. While there is no official recommendation for DVT prophylaxis in athletes with a lower extremity injury without prior history of VTE, some authors recommend anticoagulation with low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) along with physical antithrombotic measures such as sequential compression devices (SCD) for immobilized, recently injured athletes or high-risk athletes undergoing long-distance travel¹²⁹⁻¹³¹. A Cochrane review recommended that all adults with injuries requiring low or above knee casts or braces should receive LMWH for the duration of immobilization¹³².

Therapeutic anticoagulation regimens for athletes after VTE diagnosis of VTE also lacks consensus, although the current recommendations follow the same guidelines for non-athletes as listed in the American College of Chest Physicians 10th Edition of the Antithrombotic Guidelines and comprises the use of established VTE risk prediction scores to determine the appropriate prophylactic agent, dosage, and duration^{125,133,134}. Individualized anticoagulation regimens should consider type of anticoagulation, the athlete's sport and preference, and expert opinion¹³³. The most common treatment described involves initiating LMWH or unfractionated heparin, followed by a vitamin K antagonist such as warfarin until a target International Normalized Ratio (INR) of 2.0 – 3.0 is reached¹²⁵. DOAC such as rivaroxaban or apixaban may be preferred due to greater convenience and shorter half-lives that offer the possibility of intermittent dosing during sport participation¹³³. Nahza et al., recommended an individualized approach to DOAC prescribing in high-risk patients after return to non-contact sport, which was analogous to the periprocedural management of

DOAC use in the general population. This approach consists of limiting DOAC use in the days leading up to sporting events with the aim of ensuring low physiologic levels of anticoagulant use when an athlete is competing, and then returning to higher levels of DOAC use outside of competition^{133,135,136}. Although there is no consensus recommending one DOAC over another, one study showed that apixaban had shorter thrombin inhibition compared to rivaroxaban. This may favor apixaban for intermittent anticoagulation due to its shorter half-life relative to rivaroxaban¹³⁷. Treatment with uninterrupted anticoagulation and abstinence from contact sports for three months during active treatment is the standard management for athletes receiving chemical anticoagulation for VTE treatment^{131,138}. Additionally, early mobilization (within 24 to 48 hours of starting anticoagulation) and compression stockings may be used for lower extremity DVT to reduce the rate of post-thrombotic syndrome^{125,134,139}.

There is currently no literature comparing the efficacy of various anticoagulants in the treatment or prevention of VTE in athletes. Despite a growing trend towards aspirin (ASA) use for VTE prophylaxis in total joint arthroplasty, recent studies in athletes have demonstrated no postoperative benefit with ASA use after arthroscopic surgeries^{140,141}. Additionally, a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials by Zhu et al., demonstrated nearly 5-fold decrease in VTE rate after ACL reconstruction with the use of prophylactic LMWH. Despite these findings, a recent survey highlighted that the majority of arthroscopy surgeons still prescribe ASA for postoperative DVT prophylaxis¹⁴².

Return to sport following VTE should follow a gradual progression of increasing activity after the initiation of anticoagulation^{143,144}. Several randomized trials and observational studies have recommended that patients may begin ambulation within 24 hours of anticoagulation initiation if they do not have any evidence of active pulmonary embolism (PE) or cardiopulmonary compromise¹⁴³. During the first 3 weeks, athletes should be limited to walking and activities of daily living. After 3 weeks, athletes may begin low-risk activities such as swimming, and gradually intensifying activity participation to include low-impact exercises such as cycling, followed by running at 6 weeks^{139,143,144}. Athletes in non-contact sports may return to full sports participation within 6 weeks, while contact athletes should wait till 3 months after anticoagulation treatment is complete and coagulation labs are within their reference ranges^{125,139,144}. Return to contact sport can be permitted gradually while monitoring for VTE recurrence and treating post-thrombotic symptoms¹³⁸.

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Appendix

 Supporting material provided by the authors is posted with the online version of this article as a data supplement at [jbjs.org \(http://links.lww.com/JBJS/G854\)](http://links.lww.com/JBJS/G854).

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