

Table 1 Risk level by patient group (International Consensus Statement 1997)	
Speciality	Incidence of DVT (weighted mean) %
General surgery	25
Orthopaedic surgery	45-51
Urology	9-32
Gynaecological surgery	14-22
Neurosurgery including strokes	22-56
Multiple trauma	50
General medical	17

The Autar DVT scale (1994, 1996b) was developed to proactively identify patients at risk, so that the recommended prophylaxis could be

promptly initiated. Developed through an action research process and founded on Virchow's triad of risk factors in the genesis of DVT, the Autar DVT scale (1994) comprised seven subscales (Figure 1).

BACKGROUND

The original DVT scale was developed and tested on a trauma/orthopaedic unit for its consistency, predictive validity and practical utility. The scale and a postal questionnaire were used for data collection on 21 patients. DVT risk scale was used by paired registered nurses to independently

Name:		Age:	
Unit No:		Type of admission:	
Ward:		Diagnosis	
AGE SPECIFIC GROUP (years)	score	BUILD / BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)	
10-30	0	Wt(kg/ Ht (m) ²	
31-40	1	Build	score
41-50	2	Underweight	16-18 0
51-60	3	Average/ Desirable	20-25 1
61+	4	Overweight	26-30 2
		Obese	31-40 3
		Very obese (morbid)	41+ 4
MOBILITY	score	SPECIAL RISK CATEGORY	
Ambulant	0	Oral Contraceptives:	
Limited (uses aids, self)	1	20-35 years	1
Very limited (needs helps)	2	35+ years	2
Chair bound	3	Pregnancy/ Puerperium	3
Complete bed rest	4		
TRAUMA RISK CATEGORY		SURGICAL INTERVENTION: Score only one appropriate surgical intervention.	
<i>Score item(s) only preoperatively.</i>	score		score
Head injury	1	Minor surgery < 30 mins	1
Chest injury	1	Planned major surgery	2
Spinal injury	2	Emergency major surgery	3
Pelvic injury	3	Thoracic	3
Lower limb injury	4	Abdominal	3
		Urological	3
		Neurosurgical	3
		Orthopaedic (below waist)	4
HIGH RISK DISEASES: Score the appropriate item(s)		ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL	
	score	Score range	Risk Categories
Ulcerative colitis	1	≤ 6	No risk
Anaemia: Sickle Cell	2	7-10	Low risk
Haemolytic	2	11-14	Moderate risk
Polycythaemia	2	≥ 15	High risk
Chronic heart disease	3		
Myocardial infarction	4		
Malignancy	5		
Varicose veins	6		
Cerebrovascular accident	6		
Previous DVT	7		
		SCORING:	
		Identify appropriate items, add and record below:	
		Assessor	
		Date	
		Score	
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Fig. 1 Autar DVT risk assessment scale (1994).