

**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

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