**Venous thromboembolism (VTE): Dissolving the travel clot**

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The number of travellers is increasing annually, and long-haul flights is showing the same trend. More than 1.5 billion of the 3.5 billion air passengers will cross international boundaries. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE) together comprise VTE. It is known that the older age groups have a higher incidence of VTE and this population is taking to the skies in greater numbers. There is growing awareness amongst the public about this potentially fatal condition and the lay press has been covering it extensively. The in-flight risks such as immobility, relative hypoxia, dehydration and flight duration have been postulated to affect the chances of a VTE occurrence. Recently more factors have been identified that may increase the risk of VTE. Different categories of travellers have been identified and stratified into low, medium and high risk groups with especially the last group needing a detailed pre-travel consultation. T prevention of travel related VTE needs to take the individual into consideration and the duration and number of flights involved evaluated. Prevention includes basic travel advice, the use of stockings and appropriate pharmacological interventions. Newer medical modalities are currently being evaluated and their role, whilst not licenced yet, needs to be assessed.