

ABSTRACT NO. R16

PROPHYLAXIS WITH PRECAUTION: DEVELOPMENT OF HEPARIN INDUCED THROMBOCYTOPENIA FOLLOWING GREAT SAPHENOUS VEIN RADIOABLATION

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Objectives: Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) from great saphenous vein (GSV) radioablation is an infrequent but reported occurrence. Methods to decrease the risk include perioperative heparin prophylaxis; however, subcutaneous heparin is not a benign preventative treatment.

Methods: A 57 year old male with chronic venous insufficiency, C4aEpAsPr, underwent noninvasive venous reflux testing. Significant findings included no evidence of a deep venous thrombus and an incompetent left GSV. The patient reported that his symptoms remained refractory to conservative management. Therefore, GSV radioablation was recommended. The patient underwent the procedure after receiving 5000U subcutaneous heparin. Post-procedure and 72 hour follow-up ultrasound examinations revealed a closed GSV and no evidence of a DVT. At two weeks post-procedure, the patient reported a recurrence of his symptoms; ultrasound confirmed a reopened GSV and no DVT. The patient underwent a repeat GSV radioablation, after receiving 5000U SQ heparin. Again, post-procedure ultrasound studies at the conclusion of the case and at 72 hours revealed complete GSV closure and no evidence of a DVT. However, at POD # 9, the patient returned with severe dyspnea. Evaluation revealed a popliteal DVT by ultrasound and extensive bilobar pulmonary emboli by CT.

Results: The initial treatment plan included intravenous (IV) heparinization and cardiopulmonary monitoring. IV heparinization was discontinued as admission laboratory values revealed thrombocytopenia. Therefore, empiric argatroban was utilized. A heparin antibody level was obtained and was positive. The patient stabilized and was discharged to home after conversion to coumadin on hospital day #5.

Conclusions: Further research is required to determine appropriate prophylaxis indications for patients undergoing venous reconstruction.