

CVL Clots

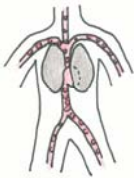


A **blood clot** is when your blood changes from a **liquid** to a **solid**.

This is usually a good thing but sometimes is a bad thing.

A blood clot is a good thing because it stops the bleeding when you cut or hurt yourself.

Have You Had a Bad Blood Clot?



The **bad clots** form in the pipes that carry the blood back to the heart. These **blue pipes** are called **veins (v-ay-n-s)**.

Arteries (ar-ter-ees) are the **red pipes**. **Arteries** carry the blood from your heart to your body.

What is a CVL?



An IV is used to give you the medicine and fluids you need to help you get better. IVs are put in small veins and fall out easily. They need to be replaced often.

What does this mean?

When you have a **CVL** tube in your vein, the **blood** has only a little room to get through around the tube. This means the **blood** around the tube flows **slower** than it usually does. When the **blood** flows **slower**, there is a higher chance you will get a **bad blood clot**.

When you need an IV for more than a few days **Central Venous (vee-nus) Lines (CVLs)** are used instead. **CVLs** are small tubes that are put into one of your big veins so that they can stay in place for a longer time.



Four or five of every ten kids with a **CVL** will get a **bad blood clot**



For some kids, the doctors have to use a **CVL**. If you have a CVL it is because you can't get better without one.

Doctors do not know how to stop your body from making **bad blood clots** when you have a **CVL**. Someday,



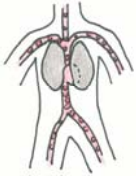
You can learn more about what can happen after you have a **bad blood clot** on the sheet called **Post Thrombotic Syndrome**.



'An-ti' means against,
'co-ag' means clot,
"anticoagulant" is a
blood thinner

Treating Blood Clots

The **bad clots** usually form in the pipes that carry the blood back to the heart. These **blue pipes** are called **veins (v-ay-ns)**.



Arteries (ar-ter-ees) are the **red pipes**. Arteries carry the blood from your heart to your body.

When your body makes a blood clot when it does not need one it is called **deep vein (v-ay-n) thrombosis (thraw-m-bo-sys)**. You will know you have a bad blood clot because you will have pain and puffiness in the area where your clot is even though you haven't hurt that area.



Kid Clot ©

Treating Blood Clots



What To Do About Your Blood Clot

- When your body makes a blood clot when it doesn't need one your doctor will give you **medicine to help your body take care of the blood clot**.
- **A blood clot is like very thick blood.**
- **The medicine is called a blood thinner.** A 'blood thinner' does not really make your blood thin it just helps to **slow down** the time it takes for your blood to clot. The blood thinner helps **S, C and AT** slow down the dominoes when they fall. This means it will take longer for your blood to make a clot.
- If you cut yourself when you are taking a blood thinner, it takes about 2 to 3 times longer for you to stop bleeding.

Important Things To Know

If You are Taking a Blood Thinner

1. Blood thinners will cause you to **bruise** and may cause **bleeding**.
2. You will need to have **blood taken** to make sure you are taking the right amount of medication so that it works properly. **Be sure to do your blood work on the day your doctor or nurse tells you to.** This will help to keep you safe from making new clots and from bleeding.
3. You must **wear a helmet** when you are riding a bike, roller-blading, skateboarding or skiing.
4. If you fall and hit your head, you must tell your mom or dad.
5. If you cut yourself hold the cut tight for 10 minutes.
6. If you are having any surgery or procedure that may cause bleeding call your doctor or nurse who helps you with your blood thinner .



How Does a Blood Thinner Work?



A blood thinner does not work to make the clot go away. The blood thinner stops the blood clot from getting bigger.

Your body is made of billions of tiny parts called molecules. They are like building blocks put together to make enzymes.



Your body has its own clot-busting enzymes. Your clot busting enzymes work to break up the clot.

