

PREVENTION OF BLOOD CLOTS AFTER PELVIC CANCER SURGERY

Who is at risk for blood clots?

All patients following surgical procedures are at an increased risks of developing blood clots in the large veins of the legs and pelvis. The danger is that such blood can travel to the lungs and disrupt lung and heart function. Patients with cancer who undergo pelvic surgery are at an especially elevated risk.

How can I prevent blood clots?

Keeping active and walking are some best ways of preventing blood clots. For patients who undergo pelvic cancer surgery, your physician generally adds a medicine to be administered after surgery.

What type of medication is used?

Lovenox is a low molecular weight heparin, administered by injection in subcutaneous tissue (the layer of tissue beneath the skin). This blood thinner is given in low doses and will be started in the hospital. The physicians ask many patients to self-administer it at home for up to 4 weeks following surgery.

What are some of the places on the body where Lovenox can be given?

Arms, abdomen, thighs, and lower back are all acceptable locations on the body where Lovenox can be injected.

How will I be able to give myself these injections?

You will receive education in the hospital from Fox Chase nurses. They will teach you where to give the injections and how to do it. Our team is always a phone call away if any questions come up.

What are some potential side effects?

Low dose Lovenox is extremely safe, but is extremely effective in reducing risks of dangerous blood clots. Bruising is the most common side-effect.

Please call if you have any questions or concerns while taking Lovenox.

