



## **Primäre Thromboseprophylaxe bei uroonkologischen Tumorpatienten**

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## Organizer

1. Consequences of VTEs
2. Incidence of VTE
3. Efficacy of primary thromboprophylaxis
4. How to balance risk benefits in testis,  
urothelial and other GU cancers

# Consequences of VTE

1. **Thrombosis in leg:** Post-thrombotic syndrom: pain, leg ulcers
2. **Pulmonary embolism:** death, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH)
3. **Need for full-anticoagulation > 6 months or forever**  
Risk of bleeding during full anticoagulation ~4%, often requiring surgical, endoscopic or endovascular procedures

# Incidence of VTE

- Cancer and chemotherapy ↑ VTE prevalence
- Khorana score
  - Site of cancer (GU=1), platelets, hemoglobin, WBC, BMI
  - low number of events
  - adenocarcinomas, lymphomas, sarcomas (((GU cancers)))

# **Randomized trials for primary VTE prevention**

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	Cassini	Avert	SAVE-ONCO	PROTECHT	PRONOMOS

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Sample size	500 some GU	1000 some GU	3200 some bladder	1000 No GU	3604 ortho

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VTE					
-Control					
-Intervention					
Relevant bleeding					
-Control					
-Intervention					
Major bleeding					
-Control					
-Intervention					

# Randomized trials for primary VTE prevention

	Cassini	Avert	SAVE-ONCO	PROTECHT	PRONOMOS
Sample size	500 some GU	1000 some GU	3200 some bladder	1000 No GU	3604 ortho
VTE	HR 0.41	HR 0.66	HR 0.36		RR 0.25
-Control	10% placebo	8% placebo	3.4% placebo	3.9% placebo	1.1% enoxaparin
-Intervention	4% rivaroxaban	6% rivaroxaban	1.2% semuloparin	2.0% nadroparin	0.2% rivaroxaban
Relevant bleeding	HR 1.34	HR 1.28	HR 2.41		
-Control	2.0% placebo	5.5% placebo	2.0% placebo		0.7% enoxaparin
-Intervention	2.7% rivaroxaban	7.3% apixaban	2.8% semuloparin		0.6% rivaroxaban
Major bleeding	HR 1.96	HR 0.41	HR 1.05		
-Control	1.0% placebo	1.8% placebo	1.0%	0.7%	0.7% enoxaparin
-Intervention	2.0% rivaroxaban	3.5% apixaban	1.2%	0%	0.6% rivaroxaban

## **Summary primary prevention across all studies**

- Heparins (LMWH) or Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC)
  - decrease VTEs ~  $\downarrow 50\%$
  - Increase risk of bleeding ~  $\uparrow 0-100\%$

## ASCO recommendation

- VTE prophylaxis during chemotherapy in patients with high risk of VTE and low risk of bleeding
- LMWH or Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC)

# Risk benefit of VTE prophylaxis



VTE incidence \* efficacy of VTE prophylaxis > Bleeding incidence \* risk of bleeding

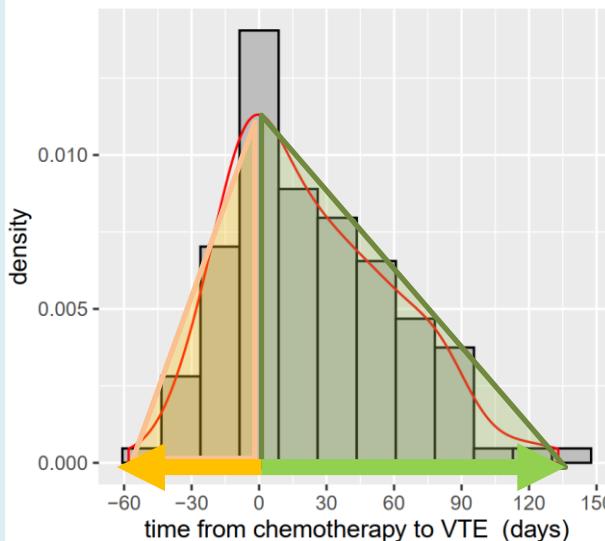
10%	* 0.5	= 5%	1%	*2	=2%
5%	* 0.5	= 2.5%	1%	*2	=2%
-> Hospitalised patients					
2%	* 0.5	=1%	1%	*2	=2%

## **Testis cancer**

- 1120 men with metastatic germ cell tumors undergoing first-line chemotherapy

VTE at any time	121
	11%

Histogramm and density line for VTE occurence over time (truncated data)



Biology?

Treatment?

VTE before chemotherapy

49  
4%

VTE during or after chemotherapy

72  
7%

Risk factors: RPLN >3.5cm, Khorana score

Risk factor: use of a venous access device

## Conclusions based on thromboembolic incidence in testis cancer

- High VTE incidence before and during/after chemotherapy
  1. Check CT for asymptomatic VTE?
  2. Screening US legs before chemotherapy?
  3. If, start prophylaxis early
  4. Only modifiable risk factor is the use of a **central venous access device**

## EAU guideline recommendation

## Strength rating

Balance the individual patients' potential benefits and risks of thromboprophylaxis during first-line chemotherapy in men with metastatic germ cell tumors

Weak

## EAU guideline recommendation

### Strength rating

Balance the individual patients' potential benefits and risks of thromboprophylaxis during first-line chemotherapy in men with metastatic germ cell tumors

Weak

Avoid use of a central venous-access device during first-line chemotherapy whenever possible

Weak

# Urothelial cancer

	VTE
Neoadjuvant chemotherapy	8- <b>35%</b> before cystectomy
First-line gem cis	10%
Immunotherapy	6%
Adjuvant gem cis UTUC	6%

Schomburg et al, Urology, 2018

Birtle et al, Lancet, 2020

**LUKS standard of care:** Prevent VTEs

- VTE prophylaxis in all patients undergoing chemotherapy for urothelial cancer
- Prevent anemia in all patients undergoing neoadjuvant chemotherapy

# **Urothelial cancer**

## **Anemia during neoadjuvant chemotherapy**

-Increases perioperative morbidity

## **LUKS standard of care:** Prevent anemia

- Ferinject if ferritin  $\leq$  450 pmol/L or  $\leq$  675 pmol/L with transferrin saturation  $\leq$  19%
- Folic acid, VitB12
- Hb  $\leq$  105 g/L: ?rHuEPO 40,000 U once weekly

# Prostate cancer

	VTE
Surgery	0-2%
Radiotherapy	2-3% (within 10y)
ARASENS	0%

Fankhauser et al, Eur Urol, 2020

Deka et al, Prostate, 2019

Smit et al, NEJM, 2022

# Renal cell cancer

	VTE
Surgery	1%
Lenvatinib plus Pembrolizumab or Everolimus	0%

Jordan, WJUR, 2017

Motzer et al, NEJM, 2021

# Summary

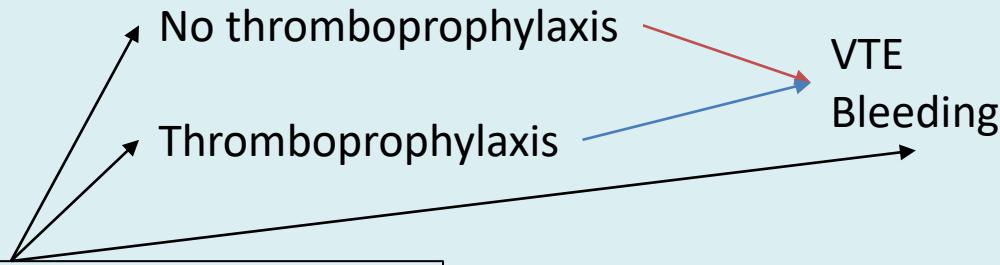
- **High** VTE incidence during chemotherapy in
  - germ cell cancer + cisplatin
  - urothelial cancers + cisplatin
- Thromboprophylaxis decreases risk of VTE but increases risk of bleeding
- VTE prophylaxis= standard of care in
  - germ cell cancer + cisplatin
  - urothelial cancers + cisplatin
  - Regardless of Khorana score
- Avoid central venous access devices
- Screen and treat anemia in patients (esp. if scheduled for surgery)

## Acknowledgements

- Stefan Aebi, Beat Müller, Philipp Niederberger, Sandra Schmid
- Mattias Casutt
- Walter Wuillemin

# Additional slides if needed

# Retrospective analyses



## Confounders

Central venous access device  
Retroperitoneal lymph nodes size  
Khorana score  
IGCCCG intermediate/poor risk  
LDH

AFP

Body surface area >1.9 m<sup>2</sup>, Weight >70kg, BMI (expert opinion)

Febrile neutropenia

History of previous VTE (expert opinion)

Men with several risk factors have a higher risk for VTE/bleeding  
are more likely to receive thromboprophylaxis=CONFOUNDING

Fankhauser et al, Eur Urol, 2020

# Simulation

VTE during /after chemotherapy	%VTE
All patients	7%
No venous access device	5%
Venous access device	10%

Bleeding
< 1%

HR 0.66\*

\*conservative efficacy from AVERT

Risk factors	NNT
All patients	45
No venous access device	55
Venous access device	31

Bleeding NNH
186

(number of bleedings because  
of full-anticoagulation after  
VTE not included)

Fankhauser et al, Eur Urol, 2020