

Glossary of Terms

◆ Acute coronary syndrome (ACS)

ACS occurs when a coronary artery is blocked by a blood clot, reducing blood supply to the heart. ACS events include unstable angina and myocardial infarction (MI), commonly known as a heart attack. ACS is a common and life-threatening result of coronary heart disease, which kills approximately 7.2 million people worldwide each year

◆ Acute respiratory insufficiency

Condition that inhibits gas exchange in the lung

◆ Anticoagulant drugs

Drugs designed to prevent and treat blood clots. Sometimes referred to as 'blood thinners'

◆ Arthroplasty

Surgical replacement of a joint

◆ Atria

Upper chambers of the heart

◆ Atrial fibrillation (AF)

A heart rhythm disorder where the chambers in the upper heart (atria) beat more rapidly than those in the lower section of the heart. Blood is not pumped out of the upper chambers completely during beating, and may pool and form a clot. A stroke results if a section of clot dislodges from the upper chambers and becomes lodged in the brain

◆ Cardiac arrhythmia

Conditions in which there is an abnormal heart beat

◆ Coagulation cascade

A chain of biochemical reactions that result in clot formation. Anticoagulants work by blocking or regulating a stage, or stages, of the coagulation cascade

◆ Composite endpoint

A combination of two or more endpoints in a clinical trial

◆ Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

A blood clot in a deep vein, usually resulting from damage to the vein or blood flow slowing down or stopping. Usually DVTs are found in the leg, but can also be in the arm. *Distal* DVTs are found in deep veins of the calf and are the most common type of DVT. *Proximal* DVTs are found in the legs above the calf muscle, up to the waist

◆ Drug–drug interaction

A modification of the effect of a drug when administered with another drug, usually either an increase or decrease in the action of either substance, or an effect not normally associated with either drug alone

◆ Efficacy

The ability of a drug to produce the desired effect

◆ Electrocardiogram

A test that records the electrical activity of the heart, used to detect abnormal rhythms and heart muscle damage

◆ Embolism

Occurs when an object or foreign substance migrates from one part of the body (through circulation) and causes a blockage (obstruction) of a blood vessel in another part of the body. Blood clots are the most common cause of embolism

◆ Enoxaparin

A low molecular weight heparin marketed as Lovenox® or Clexane® and manufactured by Sanofi-Aventis. See 'Low molecular weight heparin' for more details

◆ Factor Xa

A pivotal component of the blood clotting cascade which stimulates the production of thrombin, the enzyme that promotes the formation of blood clots



◆ **Factor Xa inhibitor**

An anticoagulant drug that targets the blood coagulation cascade at a pivotal point by inhibiting the production of thrombin, an enzyme that promotes blood clots

◆ **Fondaparinux**

An anticoagulant medication marketed as Arixtra® by GlaxoSmithKline used for the treatment and prevention of blood clots. Fondaparinux is given subcutaneously, daily

◆ **Hemorrhagic stroke**

Stroke caused by rupture of a blood vessel or an abnormal vascular structure which leads to bleeding inside the brain

◆ **Heparin**

An anticoagulant (anti-clotting) medication. Heparin is used to prevent and treat thromboembolic complications (clots that travel from their site of origin through the blood stream to clog up another vessel). Heparin is also used in the early treatment of PEs and can be administered subcutaneously or intravenously

◆ **International Normalized Ratio (INR)**

A system for assessing the clotting tendency of blood in patients receiving anticoagulant therapy with vitamin K antagonists (VKAs)

◆ **Intravenous**

Within or administered into a vein

◆ **Ischemic stroke**

Stroke caused by an interruption of the blood supply due to a blockage

◆ **Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH)**

An anticoagulant used for the treatment and prevention of blood clots. It is injected subcutaneously, or given intravenously

◆ **Major orthopedic surgery**

Major operations on the bones or joints, including total hip or knee replacement surgery

◆ **Pooled data analysis**

A statistical tool that combines the results of studies, for which the populations must be similar, that address a set of related principal outcomes. The resultant larger sample size allows less frequent events to be analysed

◆ **Prothrombin**

An inactive version of thrombin, the enzyme in the coagulation cascade that promotes the formation of blood clots. Factor Xa stimulates the conversion of prothrombin to thrombin

◆ **Pulmonary embolism (PE)**

A potentially fatal condition caused by a blood clot blocking a vessel in the lung: usually the clot originates from a DVT in the legs and travels from the leg to the lung with the blood flow. PE can result in permanent lung damage and, in some cases, death

◆ **Stroke**

The rapidly developing loss of brain function(s) due to disturbance in the blood supply to the brain, caused by a blocked or burst blood vessel

◆ **Subcutaneous**

Introduced under the skin

◆ **Systemic embolism**

A clot that blocks blood flow in an artery somewhere in the body

◆ **Thrombin**

An enzyme in the blood clotting cascade that promotes the formation of blood clots

◆ **Thrombosis**

Formation of a clot (thrombus) inside a blood vessel, obstructing the flow of blood through the circulatory system



◆ **Thromboprophylaxis**

Measures including pharmacological agents preventing blood clotting

◆ **Transient ischemic attack (TIA)**

A change in the blood supply to the brain resulting in transient neurologic dysfunction

◆ **Venous thromboembolism (VTE)**

A disease process beginning with a blood clot occurring within the venous system, including DVT and PE

◆ **Vitamin K antagonist (VKA)**

The first oral anticoagulant on the market. The most common type is warfarin. VKAs work by blocking the ability of vitamin K to regenerate, which eventually slows the activation of the coagulation cascade and the ultimate formation of blood clots

◆ **Warfarin**

An anticoagulant drug (brand names: Coumadin®, Panwarfin®, Sofarin®) taken to prevent the blood from clotting and to treat blood clots. Warfarin is also used to reduce the risk of clots causing strokes or heart attacks. Warfarin works by slowing the activation of clotting factors

To learn more about thrombosis please visit www.thrombosisadviser.com



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