

Graduated compression stockings for prevention of deep vein thrombosis

This is an excerpt from the full technical report, which is written in Norwegian.

The excerpt provides the report's main messages in English.

No. 28-2008

Review of systematic reviews

Title Graduated compression stockings for prevention of deep vein thrombosis
Norwegian title Kompresjonsstrømper i forebygging av dyp venetrombose
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ISBN 978-82-8121-227-5
ISSN 1890-1298
Report No. 28 – 2008
Project number 457
Type of report Overview of reviews
No. of pages 28 (41 incl. attachments)
Client Lovisenberg Deaconal Hospital
Subject heading (MeSH) Stockings, Compression; Venous Thrombosis
Citation Elvsaas I-K Ø, Graff B A, Harboe I, Norderhaug, I N. Graduated compression stockings for prevention of deep vein thrombosis. Report from Kunnskapssenteret no. 28–2008. Oslo: Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, 2008.

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We would like to thank all contributors for their expertise in this project. Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services assumes final responsibility for the content of this report.

Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
Oslo, November 2008

Key messages

Graduated compression stockings for prevention of deep vein thrombosis

Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services has on request from Lovisenberg Diakonale Hospital reviewed the scientific evidence on the effect of graduated compression stockings (GCS) for prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) among surgical and medical patients in hospitals.

Systematic literature search was carried out in relevant medical databases. We included three systematic reviews. The systematic reviews had moderately to high methodological quality.

The evidence indicates that GCS prevents the formation of DVT among surgical patients, both alone and on a background of other prophylactic methods. It seems that knee length GCS is as effective in prevention of DVT as thigh length GCS. The evidence of GCS for prevention of DVT is less conclusive regarding medical patients.

Use of GCS also prevents development of post thrombotic syndrome, i.e. a condition that can occur after DVT.

Further research is necessary to identify which compression graduate is more effective and duration of time that GCS should be worn to prevent DVT.