Intermittent pneumatic compression or graduated compression stockings for deep vein thrombosis


Abstract

Overview
A systematic review was undertaken to consider the relative efficacy of IPC and anti-embolic stockings (AES) for studies where there has been direct clinical comparison.

Methodology
Major medical data bases were searched between 1970 and 2008.

Results
Ten studies were identified. All had considerable variation in the type of stocking, IPC, patient group, DVT detection and prophylaxis protocol. Overall trend and cumulated rates seem to favor IPC.

Conclusion
Some published guidelines have inferred that AES and IPC are of equal efficacy. However this is made upon indirect comparison. There is some weak evidence that IPC is a more superior modality.