



north richmond
community health
Wulempuri - Kertheba



DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS AND CELLULITIS

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

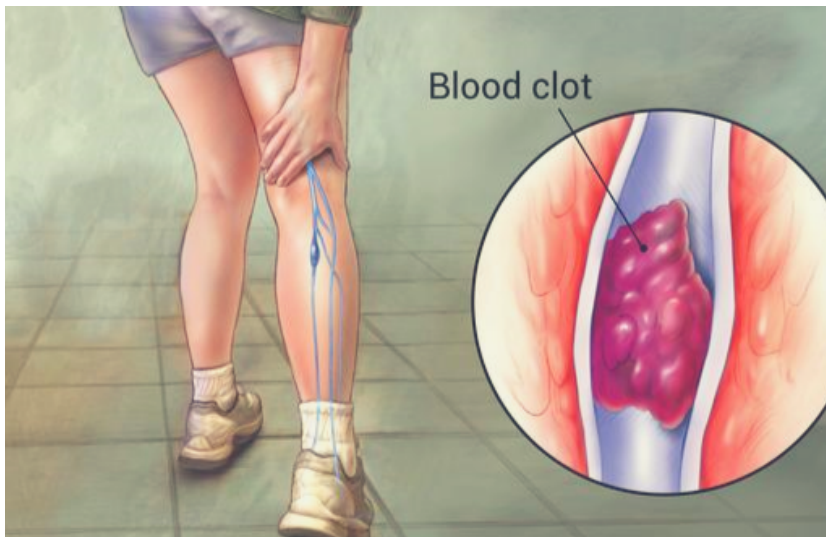
23 Lennox Street
Richmond, VIC, 3121

 (03) 9418 9830

DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is a blood clot that blocks a deep vein, usually in the leg.

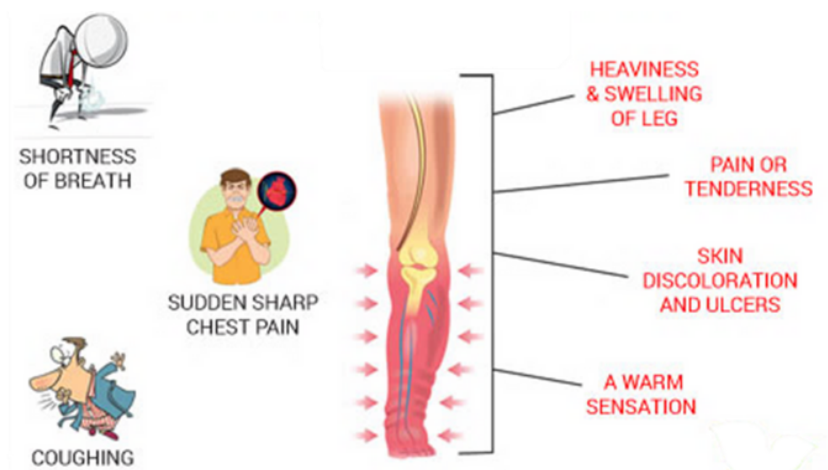
DVT's can form at or near the injection site or lower down the leg, often around the calf muscle.



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DVT

DVT's are caused by repeatedly injecting in the same place and by poor injecting technique.

DVTs often occur when people inject in the groin.



WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET A DVT?

What happens if I get a DVT?

If it stays in your legs, it can cause cellulitis or a leg ulcer.



DVT's can travel to other parts of the body

If it travels to your lungs, it is called a Pulmonary Embolism. This makes it hard to breathe. If you stop breathing it can be fatal.



WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET A DVT?

If it travels into your heart it can stop blood supply to the heart. This can cause a heart attack.



If it travels to your brain, it can stop the blood supply to the brain. This can cause a stroke.





TREATMENT FOR DVT

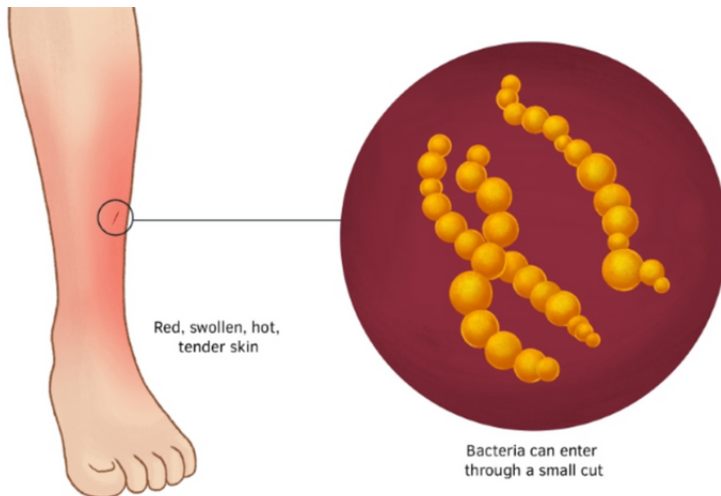
If you have a DVT you will need medication to dissolve the clot.

If you have any symptoms, even just a swollen leg, please show Thea or Lesa (NSP Nurses) as soon as possible.

WHAT IS CELLULITIS?

Cellulitis is a bacterial infection of the skin.

It can occur anywhere on the body, but it's most common on the arms and legs.



Cellulitis is caused by:

- bacteria entering the body through injecting, cuts, blisters and burns
- missing the vein
- digging around with the needle looking for a vein.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CELLULITIS

Redness of the skin

Warm/hot skin to
touch



Swelling

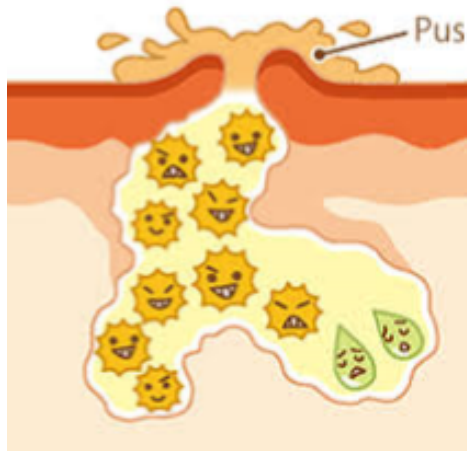


SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CELLULITIS

Tenderness or pain



You may
experience weepy
yellow fluid or pus

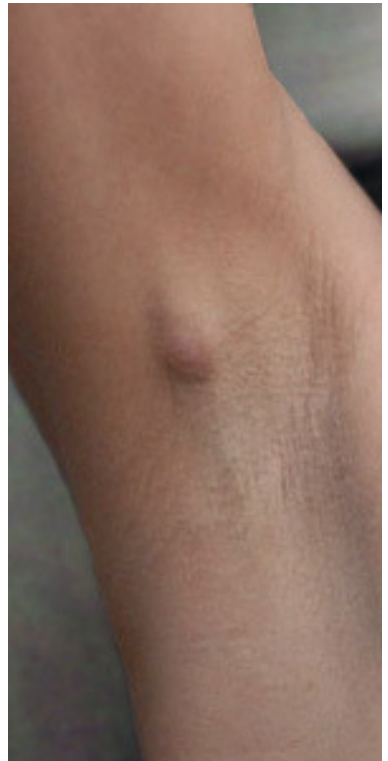


WHAT HAPPENS IF THE INFECTION SPREADS?

You may have:

- fevers/sweats
- vomiting
- swollen lymph nodes (a tender lump in the groin or armpit).

Cellulitis can cause severe swelling, blisters & ulcers. At its worst it can cause blood poisoning – this can be life threatening.



TREATMENT

To treat cellulitis, you will need antibiotics. If you have symptoms of cellulitis, see the NSP Nurses.

HOW CAN I REDUCE THE CHANCES OF GETTING CELLULITIS?



Wash your hands before and after your hit.



Use sterile injecting equipment and swab before your hit.



If you do have a wound, clean it and put on a dressing– we can do this for you.

Where to get help

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Program at North Richmond Community Health has nurses who can help manage cellulitis and Deep Vein Thrombosis.

Visit the team to learn more.

Contact us

Alcohol and Other Drugs Program
North Richmond Community Health
23 Lennox Street
Richmond, VIC, 3121
Tel: (03) 9418 9830



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