

Kakkar VV, Flanc C, O'Shea M, Flute P, Howe CT, Clarke MB. Treatment of deep-vein thrombosis—a random trial. *Br J Surg.* 1968; 55(11):858. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/4879792>

Departments of Surgery, Haematology, and Physics, King's College Hospital and Medical School, London.

The therapeutic effects of heparin, streptokinase, and Malayan pit viper venom (Arvin) have been compared in three randomly selected groups of patients with deep-vein thrombosis in the legs.

The diagnosis of deep-vein thrombosis was established in each of 21 patients by use of ascending functional phlebography (Kakkar and Flanc, 1968) and ¹²⁵I-labelled fibrinogen (Atkins and Hawkins, 1965). The various agents were given by sustained intravenous infusion, and the rate was controlled by the haematological response. Repeated phlebograms and rapidity of fall in radioactive counts were used as objective criteria to assess the effectiveness of treatment. In another 6 patients, who were not treated, the progress of thrombi was followed by radioactive counting and phlebography.

In 11 patients treated with streptokinase there was complete clearance of thrombi in 5, partial clearance only in 5, and no improvement in 1. In 7 patients treated with heparin there was complete clearance of clots in 2, partial clearance only in 3, and 2 patients died during therapy. In 3 patients treated with Arvin there was only partial clearance of thrombi in each case. In 6 untreated patients thrombi remain unchanged in 5.