



Anticoagulation UK

“When will my clot and pain go away?”

This is a question commonly asked following diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE).

Anticoagulants themselves do not dissolve the clot. The body naturally absorbs a blood clot over the course of several weeks to months and the symptoms that accompanied the blood clot gradually improve and often eventually disappear.

Most patients with DVT or PE recover within several weeks to months without significant complications or long-term effects. In some patients, the clot never goes away completely: about half of the patients with DVT will have left-over (residual) clot. This is not a clot that can break off, but rather scar tissue within the blood vessel. Because other blood vessels take over and bypass the narrowed or damaged veins, patients are often without symptoms, even if they do have leftover damage at the area where the DVT was.

Post-thrombotic syndrome is one complication from a blood clot in the leg that results in long-term swelling and pain. PTS occurs in approximately 40% of persons with DVT and varies from person-to-person in its severity. Blood clots in the lung can sometimes cause leftover symptoms of shortness of breath, decreased exercise ability, or chest discomfort.