Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is the collective term for two related conditions:

- **Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)** – A blood clot within the deep veins, usually in the lower leg, pelvis or thigh.
- **Pulmonary embolism (PE)** – Part of a clot from within a deep vein detaches and moves to the lungs, lodging in the pulmonary arteries, causing a potentially fatal condition.

**Approximately 20%** of all VTE cases occur in cancer patients.

**Cancer patients on chemotherapy have a 4–7 fold increased risk of VTE compared to the general population.**

**Brain and pancreatic cancer are associated with the highest risk of VTE.**

**Operations in cancer patients carry twice the risk of VTE compared to non-cancer patients.**

**VTE can interrupt cancer treatments.**

**VTE risk is greatest in the first year after cancer diagnosis.**

**VTE in cancer patients increases the risk of death 2–6 fold.**

**The prevalence of VTE in hospitalised cancer patients is increasing.**

**VTE is the second leading cause of death in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy.**

References