

VTE linked to acute decline in physical function in women

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(HealthDay)—For women, venous thromboembolism (VTE) is

associated with acute decline in physical function, according to a study published online June 8 in the *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*.

Kaitlin A. Hagan, Sc.D., from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues conducted a prospective study to examine the correlation between VTE and [decline](#) in physical [function](#) in 80,836 women from the Nurses' Health Study (NHS), ages 46 to 72 years in 1992, and 84,304 women from the NHS II, ages 29 to 48 years in 1993. Change in physical function was compared for women with versus without an incident VTE in each four-year follow-up period.

The researchers found that in both older and younger women, there was a decline in physical function over four years comparing women with versus without incident VTE (multivariable-adjusted mean difference, –6.5 and –3.8 points in NHS and NHS II, respectively). Women specifically reporting a pulmonary embolism had a greater difference (difference, –7.4 and –4.8 for NHS and NHS II, respectively), which was equivalent to 6.2 years of aging. Longer-term slopes of physical function decline did not differ for women with versus without VTE; however, the absolute level of physical function was worse at the end of follow-up for [women](#) with versus those without VTE.

"It may be clinically important to consider approaches to ameliorating functional deficits shortly after VTE diagnosis," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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