

**Vol 4, No 5 (2025)**

**DOI: [10.4081/btvb.2025.177](https://doi.org/10.4081/btvb.2025.177)**

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

**Still unmet problems with low molecular weight heparin prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism. An Italian survey**

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**Key words:** thromboprophylaxis; heparin; venous thromboembolism.

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<b>PROFESSIONAL SURVEY</b>
<b>Title: Is it true that... when and how to prescribe heparin prophylaxis presents grey areas?</b>
<b>Questions:</b>
<b>What's your specialization? (open)</b>
<b>In which Italian region do you work? (open)</b>
<b>What primarily drives your decision to prescribe low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) prophylaxis? (give score from 1 to 4 to every question, where 1 is the most important, 4 is the less important reason)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guidelines recommendations</li> <li>• Personal experience</li> <li>• Local hospital or administrative indications</li> <li>• Specialist's instructions</li> </ul>
<b>What is the most frequent indication for which you prescribe LMWH? (give score from 1 to 4 to every question, where 1 is very frequent, 4 is the less frequent)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orthopedic surgery</li> <li>• Abdominal or pelvic surgery</li> <li>• Acute medical illness</li> <li>• Chronic patient</li> </ul>
<b>How long do you usually prescribe LMWH? (single choice)?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 10 days</li> <li>• Up to 14 days</li> <li>• 4 weeks</li> <li>• 5 weeks</li> <li>• More than 5 weeks</li> </ul>
<b>Do you ever notice an arbitrary early discontinuation of chemoprophylaxis at patients follow-up ?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>
<b>If "Yes"...what's the reason they usually discontinue before the end of treatment?(single choice)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to perceive the thrombotic risk</li> <li>• Fear for bleeding</li> <li>• Difficulty in performing the injection</li> <li>• Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<b>What's the main "grey area" in LMWH prophylaxis? (single choice)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute medical patient not hospitalized (home treatment)</li> <li>• Chronic patient</li> <li>• General surgery</li> <li>• Other (specify)</li> <li>• There are no "grey areas"</li> </ul>
<b>Comments (open)</b>

<b>PATIENT SURVEY</b>
<b>Title: Is it true that... administering heparin subcutaneously is difficult?</b>
<b>Are you a patient or caregiver (single choice):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient</li> <li>• Caregiver</li> </ul>
<b>In which Italian region do you live? (open)</b>
<b>Who prescribed the thromboprophylaxis with LMWH?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital specialist (during and after hospital stay or at outpatient clinic)</li> <li>• General practitioner</li> <li>• Out of hospital specialist</li> </ul>
<b>Why did you receive the indication to use LMWH?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orthopedic problem (e.g. trauma and/or immobilization with cast)</li> <li>• Orthopedic surgery</li> <li>• After discharge from hospital for a medical illness</li> <li>• Medical illness which didn't require hospitalization (eg. infection, immobilization, other)</li> <li>• Other surgery (eg abdominal)</li> </ul>
<b>Was it difficult to get the drug?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>
<b>How long were you prescribed heparin prophylaxis?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 7 days</li> <li>• From 7 to 14 days</li> <li>• From 14 to 30 days</li> <li>• From 30 to 40 days</li> <li>• More than 40 days</li> </ul>
<b>Have you taken the prophylaxis for the entire duration prescribed by your doctor? Hai eseguito la profilassi per tutta la durata prescritta dal medico?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>
<b>If "No"... After how many days did you stop taking the drug?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 0 to 7 days</li> <li>• From 8 to 20 days</li> <li>• From 21 to 30 days</li> </ul>
<b>If "NO"... Why did you stop the drug?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I thought it was not needed anymore</li> <li>• I found it difficult to perform the injections</li> <li>• I found it difficult to get the drug</li> <li>• Pain</li> <li>• Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<b>Comments (open)</b>