

Risk Factors and Clinical Significance of D-Dimer in the Development of Postoperative Venous Thrombosis in Patients with Lung Tumor

This article was published in the following Dove Press journal:
Cancer Management and Research

Pan Wang^{1,*}
Honglin Zhao^{1,*}
Qingchun Zhao^{1,*}
Fan Ren¹
Ruifeng Shi¹
Xingyu Liu¹
Jinghao Liu¹
Hongyu Liu²
Gang Chen¹
Jun Chen^{1,2}

¹Department of Lung Cancer Surgery, Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, Tianjin, People's Republic of China; ²Tianjin Key Laboratory of Lung Cancer Metastasis and Tumor Microenvironment, Tianjin Lung Cancer Institute, Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, Tianjin, People's Republic of China

*These authors contributed equally to this work

Background: The incidence of venous thromboembolism (VTE) is higher in patients with lung cancer. The aim of this study was to investigate the risk factors associated with postoperative VTE and explore the VTE predication capacity of D-dimer kinetics.

Patients and Methods: Six hundred patients who had lung tumor surgery were analyzed retrospectively between January 2018 and August 2019, and venous ultrasound imaging and D-dimer examination before and after surgery were recommended to all operative patients. Of these 600 patients, 523 patients had venous thromboembolism after surgery, and 77 patients had not found. The general clinical data, postoperative prophylactic anticoagulant therapy, early systemic thromboprophylaxis, 50% increment of D-dimer, 100% increment of D-dimer, and perioperative (preoperative and days 1, 3, and 5 after surgery) D-dimer levels were collected. Logistic regression analysis was used to analyze the independent risk factors of postoperative VTE.

Results: VTE developed in 77 (12.8%) patients. In a univariate analysis, age, surgical approach, tumor size, histology, postoperative preventive anticoagulation, postoperative limb compression therapy, postoperative hemostasis, duration of operation, early systemic thromboprophylaxis, 100% increment of D-dimer, preoperative and postoperative D-dimer level, intraoperative blood loss, and time spent in the hospital were significantly different between the thrombus group and nonthrombus group ($P < 0.05$). Multivariate analysis showed that age >60 years ($P = 0.006$) and D-dimer level on 5 days after surgery ($P = 0.000$) were significant independent risk factors for VTE. Postoperative D-dimer was significantly higher than the preoperative level ($P < 0.001$). Postoperative D-dimer level was significantly different between benign and malignant tumor groups ($P < 0.05$) and between the thrombus group and nonthrombus group ($P < 0.001$). Preventive anticoagulation and limb compression therapy starting from the first day after surgery was statistically significant between the thrombus group and the nonthrombus group ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Continuous detection of D-dimer level after pulmonary tumor surgery combined with thrombotic-related risk factors can better evaluate the occurrence of VTE. Preventive anticoagulant therapy and limb compression therapy starting from the first day after surgery can effectively reduce the incidence of VTE.

Keywords: anticoagulants, D-dimer, lung neoplasms, risk factors venous thromboembolism

Introduction

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) mainly includes deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). Twenty percent of VTE deaths are associated with cancer, and patients with cancer and VTE have 3 times the risk of death as those

Correspondence: Jun Chen
Email huntercj2004@yahoo.com

without VTE.^{1,2} The incidence of VTE in lung cancer is 7% to 13%, which is the highest incidence of VTE in malignant tumors.^{3–5} In addition, surgery and chemotherapy can directly increase the risk of VTE.^{6,7} Plasma D-dimer is a hydrolytic product of fibrin monomers. Elevated D-dimer level often indicates hypercoagulability and secondary fibrinolysis hyperactivity in the blood. Therefore, D-dimer level can be used as an additional test for VTE. However, the blood of patients with lung cancer is often in a hypercoagulable state and activates a partial coagulation cascade, which results in a naturally high D-dimer level;⁸ therefore, defining the D-dimer threshold as 500 ng/mL may not accurately assess the risk of VTE. In addition, domestic and foreign guidelines for VTE suggest that anticoagulant therapy such as low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) should be recommended for patients with diagnosed or suspected tumors without anticoagulant contraindications.^{9,10} Nevertheless, there was no consistent conclusion on the type, dose, and starting time of preventive anticoagulant therapy for patients after surgery to excise lung tumors. Hence, this study aimed to explore the changes in D-dimer level in patients undergoing lung surgery and how to manage preventive anticoagulant therapy after lung tumor surgery.

Patients and Methods

Clinical Data

This study retrospectively analyzed the data of 675 patients who had lung tumor surgery during the period from January 2018 to August 2019 at the Department of Lung Cancer Surgery, Tianjin Medical University General Hospital. Patients without a history of venous thrombosis, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy were included in the study. Patients with the following history were excluded from the study: (1) anticoagulant drugs within 1 month before entering the hospital; (2) blood transfusion; (3) surgery or trauma within 3 months of admission; or (4) VTE. Seventy-five patients were excluded because they did not meet the inclusion criteria. Finally, 600 eligible patients were included (Figure 1). There were 135 cases of benign tumor, including 48 cases of inflammatory pseudotumor (35.6%), 25 cases of tuberculoma (18.5%), 10 cases of hamartoma (7.4%), and 52 cases of other benign tumors (38.5%). There were 465 patients with malignant tumor, including 314 (67.5%) with adenocarcinoma, 98 (21.1%) with squamous cell carcinoma, 15 (3.2%) with small cell carcinoma, 7 (1.5%) with large cell carcinoma, and 31 (6.7%) with other malignant tumors. Table 1 shows

the patient's clinical data. The collected information included sex, age, smoking history, hypertension history, diabetes history, surgical approach, duration of operation, intraoperative blood loss, time spent in the hospital, histology, tumor size, pathological stages, postoperative preventive anticoagulation (as-needed subcutaneous injections of nadroparin calcium starting the first day after surgery), postoperative limb compression therapy (venous thrombosis prevention device for double lower limb compression massage for 15 minutes from the first day after surgery, 2 times a day), postoperative hemostasis, early systemic thromboprophylaxis (prophylactic anticoagulation and limb compression therapy began on the first day after surgery), 50% and 100% increment of D-dimer (the D-dimer level on the first day after surgery increased by 50% and 100% compared with the preoperative period), and D-dimer levels measured preoperatively and on days 1, 3, and 5 after surgery.

Diagnosis of VTE

Venous ultrasound imaging was used to confirm DVT events and was recommended for all operative patients. PE events were confirmed by computed tomography pulmonary angiogram. This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The study protocol was reviewed and approved by the institutional review boards of the participating institutions.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were conducted with SPSS version 22.0. Continuous variables were presented as mean and standard deviation or median and percentile 25 (p25) and percentile 75 (p75), and categorical variables as absolute and relative percentages. Categorical variables were analyzed with the chi-squared test. Continuous variables were compared using the *t* test, the nonparametric Mann–Whitney *U*-test, or the Friedman test. The Bonferroni method was used to correct for multiple comparisons. The independent risk factors of postoperative VTE were analyzed by binary logistic regression. The level of statistical significance was set at $P < 0.05$.

Results

Clinical Features and Risk Factors of VTE

Among the 600 patients, 77 patients had lower extremity venous thrombosis, including 73 patients (12.3%) with lower extremity muscular calf vein thrombosis (MCVT) and 4 patients (0.6%) with proximal DVT. There were not

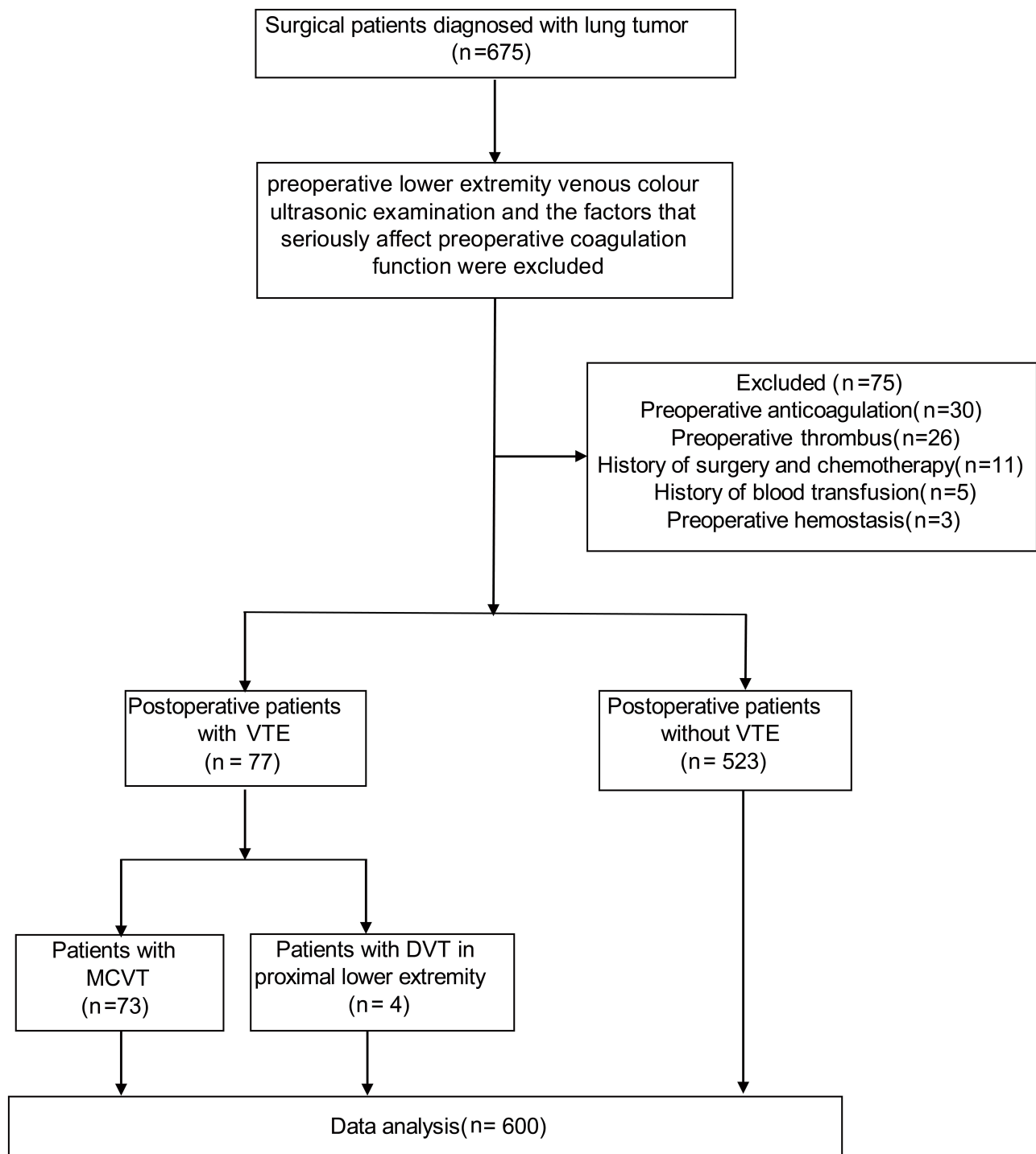


Figure 1 Study flow diagram. VTE, venous thromboembolism; MCVT, muscular calf vein thrombosis; DVT, deep venous thrombosis.

any death cases due to venous thrombosis of the lower extremities or PE.

Tables 2 and 3 showed that sex, smoking history, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, 50% increment of D-dimer, and pathological stages have no significant difference ($P > 0.05$), but the age, surgical approach, tumor size,

histology, postoperative anticoagulation, limb compression therapy, postoperative hemostasis, duration of operation, preoperative and days 1, 3, and 5 D-dimer level after surgery, intraoperative blood loss, early systemic thromboprophylaxis, 100% increment of D-dimer, and time spent in the hospital between the thrombus group and

Table 1 Clinical Characteristics of Patients

Category	n (%)
Age (y)	
≤60	237(39.5)
>60	363(60.5)
Sex	
Male	339(56.5)
Female	261(43.5)
Smoking history	
Ever	258(43.0)
Never	342(57.0)
Hypertension history	
Yes	210(35.0)
No	390(65.0)
Diabetes history	
Yes	77(12.8)
No	523(87.2)
Surgical approach	
Thoracoscopy	435(72.5)
Thoracotomy	165(27.5)
Tumor size (cm)	
<3	379(63.2)
≥3	221(36.8)
Histology	
Benign tumor	135(22.5)
Malignant tumor	465(77.5)
Postoperative anticoagulation	
Yes	220(36.7)
No	380(63.3)
Limb compression therapy	
Yes	489(81.5)
No	111(18.5)
Postoperative hemostasis	
Yes	91(15.2)
No	509(84.8)
Duration of operation (h)	
<3	342(57.0)
≥3	258(43.0)
Pathological stages	
I+II	320(69.6)
III+IV	140(30.4)
VTE	
Yes	77(12.8)
No	523(87.2)

Abbreviation: VTE, venous thromboembolism.

nonthrombus group have a significant difference ($P < 0.05$). In order to eliminate the confounding factors, the risk factors with statistical significance in a single-factor analysis were analyzed by binary logistic regression analysis and the results showed that age and D-dimer on day 5 after surgery were independent risk factors for post-operative lower extremity venous thrombosis ($P < 0.05$) (Table 4). The incidence of lower extremity venous thrombosis at age ≤ 60 years was 0.388 times that at age > 60 years (odds ratio [OR]=0.388; $P = 0.006$), and the risk of venous thrombosis in the lower extremity was doubled for every increased 1 ng/mL of D-dimer number on day 5 after surgery (OR=1.001; $P = 0.000$).

Characteristics of D-Dimer During the Perioperative Period

The level of D-dimer after surgery was significantly higher than that before surgery, and it was significantly different not only in the benign tumor group but also in the malignant tumor group ($P < 0.001$) (Figure 2). The median preoperative D-dimer level was 240 ng/mL in the benign tumor group and 387 ng/mL in the malignant tumor group, and there was no statistical difference between the 2 groups ($P = 0.097$). However, the difference in postoperative D-dimer level between the benign and malignant group was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) (Figure 3). The comparison of D-dimer level between the preoperative and postoperative different time points was statistically significant not only in the thrombus group but also in the nonthrombus group ($P < 0.001$), and the difference in D-dimer level between the thrombus group and the nonthrombus group was also statistically significant (Figure 4).

Prophylactic Management of VTE

In the analysis of prophylactic treatment of VTE, subcutaneous injection with different doses of nadroparin calcium was started at different times. It was found that the preventive anticoagulant injection started on the first day after the operation showed a significant difference between the thrombus group and the nonthrombus group ($P < 0.05$). However, when nadroparin calcium was given as preventive anticoagulant therapy on the second day after the operation, no statistical significance was found between the thrombus group and the nonthrombus

Table 2 Univariate Analysis of Categorical Data of Lower Extremity Venous Thrombosis in Postoperative Patients

Risk Factors		VTE(+)(n=77)	VTE(-)(n=523)	χ^2	P
Gender	Male(%) Female(%)	39(11.5) 38(14.6)	300(88.5) 223(85.4)	1.230	0.267
Age(yr)	≤60(%) >60(%)	15(6.3) 62(17.1)	222(93.7) 301(82.9)	14.815	0.000*
Smoking history	No(%) Yes(%)	47(13.7) 30(11.6)	295(86.3) 228(88.4)	0.588	0.443
Hypertension history	No(%) Yes(%)	43(11.0) 34(16.2)	347(89.0) 176(83.8)	3.255	0.071
Diabetes history	No(%) Yes(%)	65(12.4) 12(15.6)	458(87.6) 65(84.4)	0.598	0.439
Surgical approach	Thoracoscopy(%) Thoracotomy(%)	43(9.9) 34(20.6)	392(90.1) 131(79.4)	12.291	0.000*
Tumor size	<3cm(%) ≥3cm(%)	38(10.0) 39(17.6)	341(90.0) 182(82.4)	7.247	0.007*
Histology	Benign tumor(%) Malignant tumor(%)	10(7.4) 67(14.4)	125(92.6) 398(85.6)	4.584	0.032*
Postoperative anticoagulation ^a	No(%) Yes(%)	58(15.3) 19(8.6)	322(84.7) 201(91.4)	5.470	0.019*
Limb compression therapy	No(%) Yes(%)	23(20.7) 54(11.0)	88(79.3) 435(89.0)	7.574	0.006*
Postoperative hemostasis	No(%) Yes(%)	56(11.0) 21(23.1)	453(89.0) 70(76.9)	10.062	0.002*
Duration of operation	<3h(%) ≥3h(%)	32(9.4) 45(17.4)	310(90.6) 213(82.6)	8.594	0.003*
Pathological stages	I+II(%) III+IV(%)	47(14.7) 18(12.9)	273(85.3) 122(87.1)	0.269	0.604
Early systemic thromboprophylaxis ^b	No(%) Yes(%)	61(14.8) 16(8.6)	352(85.2) 171(91.4)	4.443	0.035*
50% increment of D-dimer ^c	No(%) Yes(%)	20(11.9) 57(13.2)	148(88.1) 375(86.8)	0.180	0.671
100% increment of D-dimer ^d	No(%) Yes(%)	27(9.3) 50(16.1)	262(90.7) 261(83.9)	6.074	0.014*

Notes: ^aAs-needed subcutaneous injections of nadroparin calcium starting the first day after surgery. ^bProphylactic anticoagulation and limb compression combined therapy began on the first day after surgery. ^cThe D-dimer level on the first day after surgery increased by 50% compared with the preoperative period. ^dThe D-dimer level on the first day after surgery increased by 100% compared with the preoperative period. *Indicates statistical significance, $P<0.05$.

Abbreviation: VTE, venous thromboembolism.

group, even if the patient was given regular (0.4 mL/day) subcutaneous injections or at a larger dose and frequency (Table 5). Besides, our study showed that there were significant differences between early systemic thromboprophylaxis and regular anticoagulation day 1 after surgery (Nadroparin calcium was injected regularly at least 0.4 mL daily.), limb compression therapy, and non-treatment in the

comparison between thrombus group and nonthrombus group ($P=.037$) (Supplemental Table 1).

Discussion

VTE is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in patients with cancer. Approximately one-fifth of patients with VTE are diagnosed with malignant tumors

Table 3 Univariate Analysis of Measurement Data of Lower Extremity Venous Thrombosis in Postoperative Patients

Risk Factors		VTE (+)	VTE (–)	P
D-dimer (ng/mL)	Before surgery	482(342,944)	361(256,573)	0.000*
	Day 1 after surgery	1717(922,2675)	771(539,1105)	0.000*
	Day 3 after surgery	1649(1024,2544)	680(485,1036)	0.000*
	Day 5 after surgery	2293(1287,3811)	946(684,1348)	0.000*
Blood loss (mL)		50(30,100)	50(20,50)	0.000*
Time in hospital (d)		16(15,23)	15(13,19)	0.001*

Note: *Indicates statistical significance, $P < .05$.

Abbreviation: VTE, venous thromboembolism.

Table 4 Two-Class Logistic Regression Analysis of Lower Extremity Venous Thrombosis in Postoperative Patients

Risk Factors	B	Standard Error	Wald	P	OR	95% CI	
						Lower	Upper
Age	−0.948	0.346	7.511	0.006*	0.388	0.197	0.763
D-dimer level day 5 after surgery	0.001	0	29.358	0.000*	1.001	1.001	1.001

Note: *Indicates statistical significance, $P < .05$.

Abbreviations: OR, odds ratio. CI, confidence interval.

simultaneously,^{1,10,11} and VTE is the most common cause of death after cancer surgery.¹² Compared with other types of tumors, the risk of VTE in lung cancer is very high. If we consider the high incidence of lung cancer, lung cancer may be one of the cancers with the highest incidence of cancer-related thrombosis.¹³ The overall incidence of VTE after surgery in this study was 12.8%, of which benign and malignant tumors were 7.4% and 14.4%, respectively. This

is consistent with previous studies (Table 6) and it again shows that the incidence of postoperative VTE is higher than other tumors and highlights the importance of postoperative anticoagulation.

Prior studies show that platinum-containing chemotherapeutic drugs,^{26,27} interleukin 6, tumor necrosis factor,²⁸ antiangiogenic agents (bevacizumab),²⁹ platelet count,³⁰ age, tumor pathology type (adenocarcinoma),³¹ time spend

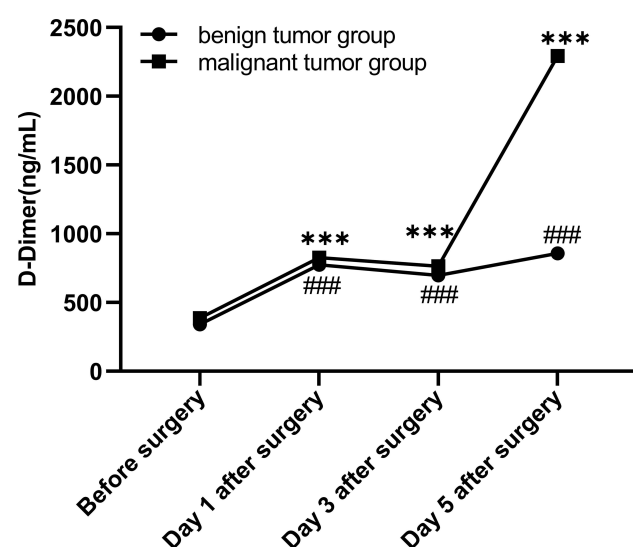


Figure 2 Comparison of D-dimer level at different time points in the benign tumor group and malignant tumor group. *** $P < .001$, the difference between preoperative and postoperative D-dimer levels is statistically significant in the benign tumor group. ### $P < .001$, the difference in D-dimer level is statistically significant in the malignant tumor group.

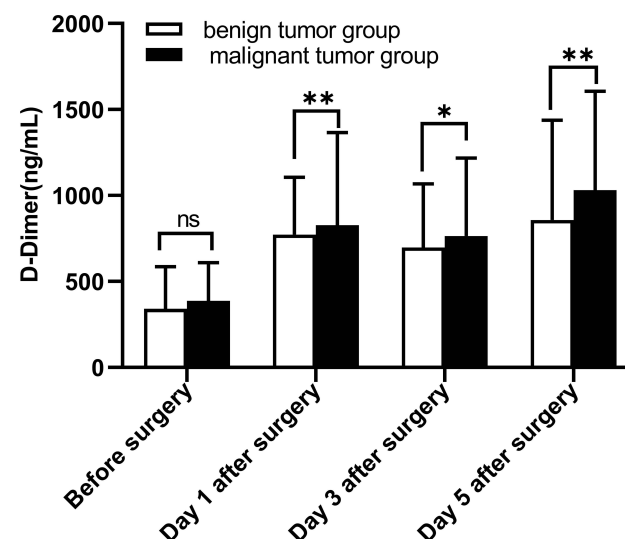


Figure 3 Comparison of D-dimer level at different time points between benign tumor group and malignant tumor group. NS, the difference was not statistically significant. *Indicates statistical significance, $P < .05$. **Indicates statistical significance, $P < .01$.

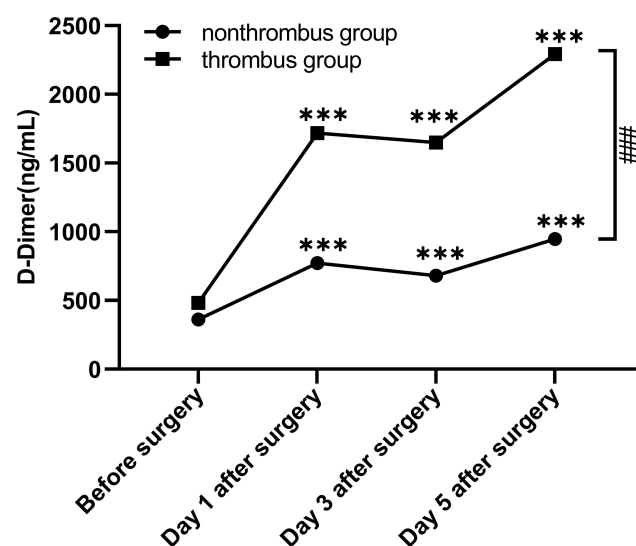


Figure 4 Comparison of D-dimer level at different time points in the thrombus group and nonthrombus group. *** $P<.001$, the difference between preoperative and postoperative D-dimer levels is statistically significant in the thrombus group and nonthrombus group; ### $P<.001$, the difference in D-dimer level is statistically significant between the thrombus group and nonthrombus group.

in the hospital,³² obesity, and surgery can increase the risk of VTE.^{33,34} Other studies show that the incidence of VTE is the highest within 1 month after operation, after which the risk is gradually reduced.^{35,36} The risk of venous thrombosis is 4.2% in patients undergoing lung cancer surgery before discharge, and 77% of patients with VTE are diagnosed before discharge.^{36,37} Nevertheless, there are few studies on the incidence of postoperative thrombus in patients undergoing lung tumor surgery, which is one of the advantages of this study. We found that the incidence of VTE in patients with thoracotomy, operation time > 3 hours, more blood loss during surgery, and longer time spent in the hospital was higher than that in the control group. Moreover, age and

D-dimer on day 5 after surgery were independent risk factors for lower limb venous thrombosis. We found that the incidence of postoperative thrombus in patients with age > 60 years (17.1%) was significantly higher than that in patients with age ≤ 60 years (6.3%). Several studies also show that age is a risk factor for thrombosis.^{38,39} In addition, the D-dimer level on day 5 after surgery was significantly higher than the other time points, and the most significant difference was noted between the thrombus group and the nonthrombus group. Therefore, it is necessary to perform a timely check of coagulation function on day 5 after surgery.

D-dimer is positive for the prediction of thrombosis, but previous studies show that the current threshold does not properly assess the occurrence of thrombosis, and it is recommended to adjust the threshold to 3500 ng/mL or 2000 ng/mL.^{40–42} D-dimer level increases first and then decreases in the first 10 days after surgery.^{40,42} We found that the median postoperative D-dimer level in the thrombus group, the nonthrombus group, the benign tumor group, and the malignant tumor group were all > 500 ng/mL. Therefore, whether to define the critical level of D-dimer as 500 ng/mL after tumor surgery needs further consideration and research. In addition, when comparing the doubled D-dimer level on the first day after surgery with pre-surgery, the occurrence of venous thrombosis should be alerted because our data showed that the incidence of thrombosis was significantly increased. Postoperative plasma D-dimer was significantly different not only in the thrombus and nonthrombus groups but also in the benign and malignant tumor groups. Therefore, we suggest that regular review of D-dimer levels is necessary for postoperative patients, especially in the first week after surgery.

Table 5 Analysis of Postoperative Venous Thrombosis of Lower Extremity Under Different Anticoagulation Conditions

Anticoagulant Condition		VTE (+)	VTE (–)	P
Anticoagulation day 1 after surgery ^a	Yes(%)	19(8.6)	201(91.4)	0.019*
	No(%)	58(15.3)	322(84.7)	
Anticoagulation day 1 after surgery ^b	Yes(%)	17(8.6)	181(91.4)	0.029*
	No(%)	60(14.9)	342(85.1)	
Anticoagulation day 2 after surgery ^c	Yes(%)	30(11.2)	239(88.8)	0.267
	No(%)	47(14.2)	284(85.8)	
Anticoagulation day 2 after surgery ^d	Yes(%)	25(10.8)	206(89.2)	0.244
	No(%)	52(14.1)	317(85.9)	

Notes: ^aAs-needed subcutaneous injections of nadroparin calcium starting the first day after surgery. ^bFrom the first day after surgery, nadroparin calcium was injected subcutaneously on a regular basis (at least 0.4 mL daily). ^cAs-needed injections of nadroparin calcium starting the second day after surgery. ^dFrom the second day after surgery, nadroparin calcium was injected subcutaneously on a regular basis (at least 0.4 mL daily). *Indicates statistical significance, $P<.05$.

Abbreviation: VTE, venous thromboembolism.

Table 6 Incidence of VTE After Surgery in Different Disease Categories

Study	Total Surgical Patients	Disease Categories	Incidence of Postoperative VTE
Cui et al ¹⁴	339	Pulmonary malignancy	11.5%
Wang et al ¹⁵	249	Pulmonary malignancy	14.5%
Tian et al ¹⁶	52	Pulmonary malignancy	23.1%
	59	Pulmonary benign tumor	10.2%
Song et al ¹⁷	147	Pulmonary malignancy	15.0%
	115	Pulmonary benign disease	7.0%
Song et al ¹⁸	285	Pulmonary malignancy	16.4%
		Pulmonary benign tumor	7.5%
Shi et al ¹⁹	1133	Urological malignant tumor	2.4%
Yoshioka et al ²⁰	72	Malignant spine tumor	4.2%
		Benign spine surgery	4.2%
Yang et al ²¹	3645	Colorectal cancer	0.9%
Kim et al ²²	375	Gastric Cancer	2.4%
Dar et al ²³	88	Abdominal malignancy	9.0%
Hennessey et al ²⁴	93,663	Head and neck cancer	2.0%
Kimmell et al ²⁵	3098	Intracranial tumor	5.0%
		Benign intracranial disease	1.9%

Abbreviation: VTE, venous thromboembolism.

Because of the high incidence of lung cancer and VTE, we need to consider whether the preventive anticoagulant therapy should be adjusted accordingly. Currently, preventive anticoagulant therapy after lung cancer surgery is mainly based on clinical consensus and lack of relevant evidence. In addition, postoperative patients have a potential risk of bleeding. Therefore, how to balance the risk of thrombosis and bleeding after surgery needs further study. Previous studies have found that about 7% of PE is caused by intermuscular veins, and suggest that patients who have symptomatic MCVT need to be treated with an anticoagulant therapeutic dose lasting at least 15 to 30 days, and it is necessary to prolong the anticoagulation time to prevent the thrombus from extending to the deep vein when related risk factors are present.⁴³ Previous study reveals that the majority of postoperative VTE is lower extremity intermuscular venous thromboses, which is consistent with this study (94.8%), and shows that up to 15% of the distal VTEs in the first 2 weeks after surgery subsequently progress and affect the proximal vein.⁴² Thrombosis prevention programs include anticoagulant drugs, mechanical measures (intermittent compression therapy and elastic stockings), and early active activities. These programs can effectively reduce the incidence of VTE after lung surgery and our results have confirmed some of them.⁴⁴ Further, LMWH for the preventive treatment of VTE does not significantly increase risk of hemorrhage.⁴⁵ Our findings

are in line with the American guidelines which recommend early initiation of systemic thromboprophylaxis for at least 7 to 10 days after tumor surgery. Moreover, their findings suggest an added benefit of mechanical thromboprophylaxis in this population.⁴⁶ Besides, early systemic thromboprophylaxis may be better than regular anticoagulation day 1 after surgery, limb compression therapy in preventing thrombosis.

Hence, prophylactic anticoagulant therapy and limb compression therapy from the first day after surgery, D-dimer examination on day 5 after surgery, and thrombus-related risk factor analysis can well evaluate the risk of thrombus and help clinicians decide whether to continue anticoagulant therapy.

Study Limitations

The results of this study were encouraging, but the limitations were not negligible. The study did not have regular follow-up for VTE progression and overall survival of patients postoperatively. Because of the low overall incidence of VTE in the population, comparative studies of postoperative anticoagulation for other types of tumors should be performed in subsequent studies. In addition, the neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio is considered to be a potential biomarker for predicting efficacy and prognosis of anticoagulant therapy in patients with lung cancer,⁴⁷ so relevant research can be conducted in future studies.

Conclusions

In conclusion, VTE after pulmonary tumor surgery should cause widespread concern and attention. In addition, D-dimer level and color Doppler ultrasonography of lower extremity veins should be reviewed regularly. After the anticoagulation contraindications are excluded, prophylactic anticoagulant therapy and mechanical thromboprophylaxis should be given as soon as possible according to the patient's condition. When lower extremity intermuscular venous thrombosis occurs, more aggressive treatment should be taken to protect the health of the patient from progression of this condition.

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

This study was approved by the Ethical Review Committee of Tianjin Medical University General Hospital. Venous ultrasound imaging was recommended for all postoperative patients. All biological samples were obtained with patients' written informed consent.

Acknowledgments

We thank the Peerwith (<https://www.peerwith.com/>) for English-language editing.

Author Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Funding

This work was supported by grants from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81773207) and the Natural Science Foundation of Tianjin (17YFZCSY00840, 18PTZWHZ00240, 19YFZCSY00040), and Special support program for High Tech Leader & Team of Tianjin (TJZJH-GCCCXYTD-2-6). Funding sources had no role in study design, data collection, and analysis; in the decision to publish; or in the preparation of the manuscript.

Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

References

1. Heit JA, O'Fallon WM, Petterson TM, et al. Relative impact of risk factors for deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism: a population-based study. *Arch Intern Med*. 2002;162(11):1245–1248. doi:10.1097/GME.0000000000001232
2. Heit JA, Silverstein MD, Mohr DN, Petterson TM, O'Fallon WM, Melton LJ 3rd. Risk factors for deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism: a population-based case-control study. *Arch Intern Med*. 2000;160(6):809–815. doi:10.1001/archinte.160.6.809
3. Zhang Y, Yang Y, Chen W, et al. Prevalence and associations of VTE in patients with newly diagnosed lung cancer. *Chest*. 2014;146(3):650–658. doi:10.1378/chest.13-2379
4. Lyman GH, Khorana AA. Cancer, clots and consensus: new understanding of an old problem. *J Clin Oncol off J Am Soc Clin Oncol*. 2009;27(29):4821–4826. doi:10.1200/JCO.2009.22.3032
5. Vitale C, D'Amato M, Calabro P, Stanziola AA, Mormile M, Molino A. Venous thromboembolism and lung cancer: a review. *Multidiscip Respir Med*. 2015;10(1):28. doi:10.1186/s40248-015-0021-4
6. White RH, Zhou H, Romano PS. Incidence of symptomatic venous thromboembolism after different elective or urgent surgical procedures. *Thromb Haemost*. doi:10.1160/TH03-03-0152
7. Ay C, Uenal UK. Epidemiology and risk factors for venous thromboembolism in lung cancer. *Curr Opin Oncol*. 2016;28(2):145–149. doi:10.1097/CCO.0000000000000262
8. Ma J, Qin SK, Wu YL, et al. Guidelines on prevention and treatment of tumor-associated venous thromboembolism in China (Version 2019). *Zhongguo Zhong Liu Lin Chuang*. 2019;46(13):653–660. doi:10.3969/j.issn.1000-8179.2019.13.765
9. Lyman GH, Bohlke K, Khorana AA, et al. Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis and treatment in patients with cancer: american society of clinical oncology clinical practice guideline update 2014. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33(6):654–656. doi:10.1200/JCO.2014.59.7351
10. Kourelis TV, Wysokinska EM, Wang Y, Yang P, Mansfield AS, Tafur AJ. Early venous thromboembolic events are associated with worse prognosis in patients with lung cancer. *Lung Cancer*. 2014;86(3):358–362. doi:10.1016/j.lungcan.2014.10.003
11. Trujillo-Santos J, Casas JM, Casado I, et al. Erratum to "Thirty-day mortality rate in women with cancer venous thromboembolism. Findings from the RIETE registry" [Thrombosis research (2011) S1–S4]. *Thromb Res*. 2011;128(2):e1. doi:10.1016/j.thromres.2011.02.021
12. Zamorano JL, Lancellotti P, Rodriguez Munoz D, et al. 2016 ESC Position Paper on cancer treatments and cardiovascular toxicity developed under the auspices of the ESC Committee for Practice Guidelines: the Task Force for cancer treatments and cardiovascular toxicity of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). *Eur J Heart Fail*. 2017;19(1):9–42. doi:10.5603/KP.2016.0156
13. Paneesha S, McManus A, Arya R, et al. Frequency, demographics and risk (according to tumour type or site) of cancer-associated thrombosis among patients seen at outpatient DVT clinics. *Thromb Haemost*. 2010;103(2):338–343. doi:10.1160/TH09-06-0397
14. Cui S, Li H, Tian B, Song C, Hu B. [Risk factors associated with venous thromboembolism after lung cancer surgery: a single-center study]. *Zhongguo Fei Ai Za Zhi*. 2018;21(10):753–760. Chinese. doi:10.3779/j.issn.1009-3419.2018.10.04
15. Wang X, Song S, Ni R, Lu M, Mao Y. Effectiveness of intraoperative administration of intermittent pneumatic compression in preventing deep vein thrombosis in lung cancer patients undergoing video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery lobectomy. *J Thorac Dis*. 2019;11(7):2832–2838. doi:10.21037/jtd.2019.07.07
16. Tian B, Song C, Li H, et al. The significance of perioperative coagulation and fibrinolysis related parameters after lung surgery for predicting venous thromboembolism: a prospective, single center study. *J Thorac Dis*. 2018;10(4):2223–2230. doi:10.21037/jtd.2018.03.174

17. Song C, Shargall Y, Li H, et al. Prevalence of venous thromboembolism after lung surgery in China: a single-centre, prospective cohort study involving patients undergoing lung resections without perioperative venous thromboembolism prophylaxis? *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg*. 2019;55(3):455–460. doi:10.1093/ejcts/ezy323
18. Song CF, Li H, Tian B, et al. [Incidence of postoperative venous thromboembolism after thoracic surgery and its characteristic: a single center, prospective cohort study]. *Zhonghua Wai Ke Za Zhi*. 2018;56(4):284–288. Chinese. doi:10.3760/cma.j.issn.0529-5815.2018.E008
19. Shi A, Huang J, Wang X, et al. Postoperative D-dimer predicts venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing urologic tumor surgery. *Urol Oncol*. 2018;36(6):307.e15–307.e21. doi:10.1016/j.urolonc.2018.03.003
20. Yoshioka K, Kitajima I, Kabata T, et al. Venous thromboembolism after spine surgery: changes of the fibrin monomer complex and D-dimer level during the perioperative period. *J Neurosurg Spine*. 2010;13(5):594–599. doi:10.1016/j.urolonc.2018.03.003
21. Yang SS, Yu CS, Yoon YS, Yoon SN, Lim SB, Kim JC. Symptomatic venous thromboembolism in Asian colorectal cancer surgery patients. *World J Surg*. 2011;35(4):881–887. doi:10.1007/s00268-011-0957-2
22. Kim JW, Chun EJ, Choi SI, et al. A prospective study on the incidence of postoperative venous thromboembolism in Korean gastric cancer patients: an inquiry into the application of Western guidelines to Asian cancer patients. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(4):e61968. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061968
23. Dar TI, Wani KA, Ashraf M, et al. Low molecular weight heparin in prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis in Asian general surgical patients: a Kashmir experience. *Indian J Crit Care Med*. 2012;16(2):71–74. doi:10.4103/0972-5229.99107
24. Hennessey P, Semenov YR, Gourin CG. The effect of deep venous thrombosis on short-term outcomes and cost of care after head and neck cancer surgery. *Laryngoscope*. 2012;122(10):2199–2204. doi:10.1002/lary.23459
25. Kimmell KT, Walter KA. Risk factors for venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing craniotomy for neoplastic disease. *J Neurooncol*. 2014;120(3):567–573. doi:10.1007/s11060-014-1587-y
26. Lopez-Gomez M, Gomez-Raposo C, Lobo Samper F. Frequency, risk factors, and trends for venous thromboembolism among hospitalized cancer patients. *Cancer*. 2008;113(1):223–224; author reply 224. doi:10.1002/cncr.23524
27. Starling N, Rao S, Cunningham D, et al. Thromboembolism in patients with advanced gastroesophageal cancer treated with anthracycline, platinum, and fluoropyrimidine combination chemotherapy: a report from the UK national cancer research institute upper gastrointestinal clinical studies group. *J Clin Oncol*. 2009;27(23):3786–3793. doi:10.1200/JCO.2008.19.4274
28. de Meis E, Pinheiro VR, Zamboni MM, et al. Clotting, immune system, and venous thrombosis in lung adenocarcinoma patients: a prospective study. *Cancer Invest*. 2009;27(10):989–997. doi:10.3109/07357900903124464
29. Kilickap S, Abali H, Celik I. Bevacizumab, bleeding, thrombosis, and warfarin. *J Clin Oncol*. 2003;21(18):3542; author reply 3543. doi:10.1200/JCO.2003.99.046
30. Kadlec B, Skrickova J, Merta Z, Dusek L, Jarkovsky J. The incidence and predictors of thromboembolic events in patients with lung cancer. *ScientificWorldJournal*. 2014;2014:125706. doi:10.1155/2014/125706
31. Lee YG, Kim I, Lee E, et al. Risk factors and prognostic impact of venous thromboembolism in Asian patients with non-small cell lung cancer. *Thromb Haemost*. 2014;111(6):1112–1120. doi:10.1160/TH13-11-0956
32. Steuer CE, Behera M, Kim S, et al. Predictors and outcomes of venous thromboembolism in hospitalized lung cancer patients: a nationwide inpatient sample database analysis. *Lung Cancer*. 2015;88(1):80–84. doi:10.1016/j.lungcan.2015.01.022
33. Khaldi A, Helo N, Schneck MJ, Origiano TC. Venous thromboembolism: deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism in a neurosurgical population. *J Neurosurg*. 2011;114(1):40–46. doi:10.3171/2010.8.JNS10332
34. Corrales-Rodriguez L, Blais N. Lung cancer associated venous thromboembolic disease: a comprehensive review. *Lung Cancer*. 2012;75(1):1–8. doi:10.1016/j.lungcan.2011.07.004
35. Yang Y, Zhou Z, Niu XM, et al. Clinical analysis of postoperative venous thromboembolism risk factors in lung cancer patients. *J Surg Oncol*. 2012;106(6):736–741. doi:10.1002/jso.23190
36. Christensen TD, Vad H, Pedersen S, et al. Venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing operations for lung cancer: a systematic review. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2014;97(2):394–400. doi:10.1016/j.athoracsur.2013.10.074
37. Merkow RP, Bilimoria KY, McCarter MD, Barnett CC, Caprini JA, Bentrem DJ. Post-discharge venous thromboembolism in surgical oncology: extending the case for extended prophylaxis. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2010;211(3):3. doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2010.06.252
38. Donnellan E, Khorana AA. Cancer and venous thromboembolic disease: a review. *The Oncologist*. 2017;22(2):199–207. doi:10.1634/theoncologist.2016-0214
39. Khorana AA, Francis CW, Culakova E, Kuderer NM, Lyman GH. Frequency, risk factors, and trends for venous thromboembolism among hospitalized cancer patients. *Cancer*. 2007;110(10):2339–2346. doi:10.1002/cncr.23062
40. Yoshiiwa T, Miyazaki M, Takita C, Itonaga I, Tsumura H. Analysis of measured D-dimer levels for detection of deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism after spinal surgery. *J Spinal Disord Tech*. 2011;24(4):E35–39. doi:10.1097/BSD.0b013e3181f60603
41. Karsy M, Azab MA, Harper J, et al. Evaluation of a D-dimer protocol for detection of venous thromboembolism. *World Neurosurg*. 2020;133:e774–774e783. doi:10.1016/j.wneu.2019.09.160
42. Prell J, Rachinger J, Smaczny R, et al. D-dimer plasma level: a reliable marker for venous thromboembolism after elective craniotomy. *J Neurosurg*. 2013;119(5):1340–1346. doi:10.3171/2013.5.JNS13151
43. Gillet JL, Perrin MR, Allaert FA. Short-term and mid-term outcome of isolated symptomatic muscular calf vein thrombosis. *J Vasc Surg*. 2007;46(3):513–519. doi:10.1016/j.jvs.2007.04.040
44. Gomez-Hernandez MT, Rodriguez-Perez M, Novoa-Valentin N, Jimenez-Lopez M, Aranda-Alcaide JL, Varela-Simo G. Prevalence of venous thromboembolism in elective thoracic surgery. *Arch Bronconeumol*. 2013;49(7):297–302. doi:10.1016/j.arbres.2013.01.011
45. Fuentes HE, Oramas DM, Paz LH, Casanegra AI, Mansfield AS, Tafur AJ. Meta-analysis on anticoagulation and prevention of thrombosis and mortality among patients with lung cancer. *Thromb Res*. 2017;154:28–34. doi:10.1016/j.thromres.2017.03.024
46. Lyman GH, Kuderer NM. Prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism among patients with cancer: the American Society of Clinical Oncology Guidelines. *Thromb Res*. 2010;125(Suppl 2):S120–127. doi:10.1016/S0049-3848(10)70029-3
47. Go SI, Lee A, Lee US, et al. Clinical significance of the neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in venous thromboembolism patients with lung cancer. *Lung Cancer*. 2014;84(1):79–85. doi:10.1016/j.lungcan.2014.01.014

Cancer Management and Research

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Cancer Management and Research is an international, peer-reviewed open access journal focusing on cancer research and the optimal use of preventative and integrated treatment interventions to achieve improved outcomes, enhanced survival and quality of life for the cancer patient.

The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/cancer-management-and-research-journal>