

the common types of additional pathology demonstrated. The presence of PE and any additional pathology, with special attention to "incidental" pathology, or pathology that was unsuspected but which was significant enough to change the patient's management was recorded, in order to identify the common incidental pathologies that we should be actively hunting for when reviewing a CTPA.

**Results** PE was demonstrated in 94 studies (22.6%; 95% CI 18.7% to 26.9%). Additional pathology was seen in 373 studies (89.7%; 95% CI 86.3% to 92.4%), of which 58 (15.6%; 95% CI 12.0% to 19.6%) were reported as incidental. These included coronary calcification, degenerative spine, aortic disease, valve disease, liver cyst, retrosternal goitre, anatomical variant, gallstone/gallbladder disease, scapula lesion, rib fracture/deformity. Forty-three cases (10.3%) went on to require further investigation or follow-up. One hundred and ten cases (26.4%) showed no PE but an alternative diagnosis i.e. effusion/consolidation.

**Conclusion** The prevalence of PE in our sample was 22%. Secondary findings were found in 89.7% of scans, with completely incidental findings reported in 15.6% and an alternative diagnosis when there was no PE in 26.4%. This emphasises the usefulness of CTPA in supplying further diagnostic data in patients with suspected PE.

### P260 MANAGING THE INDETERMINATE CT PULMONARY ANGIOGRAM: DO WE GET IT RIGHT?

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**Introduction** Around 5% of CT pulmonary angiograms (CTPA) are indeterminate, usually due to incomplete contrast enhancement of pulmonary arteries, motion artefact or difficulty interpreting small peripheral filling defects. While BTS guidelines propose good quality negative CTPA as sufficient grounds to not treat for pulmonary embolism (PE), response to indeterminate CTPA is not addressed. No previous study has investigated variation in radiologists' reporting and clinicians' response to indeterminate CTPA's.

**Methods** Records of 51 patients with indeterminate CTPA were retrospectively reviewed for radiologist's reporting, clinicians' documentation of such, and clinical outcomes.

**Results** Reports included "no large central PE" (n=25), "no obvious PE within the limitations of the study" (n=14), "unable to exclude segmental/subsegmental PE" (n=5), and "equivocal filling defects of uncertain significance" (n=4). 17/51 (33%) stated: "PE cannot be excluded." Further imaging was suggested in only 2 cases. Clinicians documented recognition of technical shortcomings, reported by radiologists, in only 16/51 cases (31%), and recorded "no PE" in 29/51 (57%). Clinicians assessed pre-test probability in 8/51 (8%). 36 patients had the diagnosis of PE dismissed without further tests, of whom 26 were treated for other acute cardio-respiratory conditions revealed on CTPA. 0 had one or more additional tests (repeat CTPA, V/Q scan or Doppler u/s), confirming thrombo-embolic disease in 2. Further investigation was significantly more likely following scans stating "PE cannot be excluded" than all other reports; both overall (47% vs 6%,  $p < 0.001$ ), and excluding patients with alternative acute cardio-respiratory diagnoses (66% vs 15%,  $p < 0.005$ ). 3 patients with indeterminate filling defects were anti-coagulated for PE. Of 2 patients with no filling

defects reported, but anti-coagulated on grounds of clinical suspicion and indeterminate scan, 1 presented 2 weeks later with bleeding complications. Anticoagulation was discontinued when review and further investigation suggested PE was, in retrospect, unlikely. One untreated patient re-presented after 2 weeks with non-fatal PE.

**Conclusion** There is a lack of clear guidance, and considerable variation in radiological reporting of, and clinicians' response to indeterminate CTPA. Un-ambiguous reporting, repeat clinical assessment, appropriate consideration of alternative diagnoses, and further investigation where appropriate may reduce the risks of missed diagnosis or unwarranted anti-coagulation.

### P261 QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS ACCEPTABILITY OF VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL BY ADMITTING DOCTORS AND NURSES IN THE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT UNIT OF A DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

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**Introduction** The House of Commons Health Committee estimated 25 000 people in the UK die from preventable hospital acquired venous thromboembolism (VTE) every year. The Department of Health now state all adult patients must have documented VTE risk assessment and have given guidance on thrombosis and bleeding risk factors based on guidance from the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE). Our hospital trust has raised awareness of appropriate prescribing of thromboprophylaxis by alerts on the local intranet, posters in clinical areas, at staff inductions and the development of a VTE risk assessment tool that will be included in the new generic assessment document. The tool was audited with thromboprophylaxis prescribing and found that none of the tools were filled in correctly and 20 out of 50 patients (40%) were not prescribed thromboprophylaxis appropriately. We wanted to find out why these results occurred.

**Method** A questionnaire was given to 34 members of staff who are exposed to the new risk assessment forms; 16 doctors and 18 nurses.

**Results** All doctors were happy assessing VTE risk, whereas 61% of the nurses were not happy assessing all the risks included. The mean time to fill in the form was 4 min for doctors and nurses. 63% of doctors felt it should be a nursing job to fill in the risk assessment form whereas 77% of nurses felt it was a doctors job to complete the VTE risk assessment. 50% of doctors stated they used the risk assessment form when prescribing thromboprophylaxis and 62% of doctors felt they didn't need a form to assess risk of VTE.

**Conclusion** The trust has used numerous ways to raise awareness of thromboprophylaxis prescribing, including the risk assessment tool. However, 40% of patients audited were not correctly prescribed thromboprophylaxis despite these measures. The majority of nurses felt it was a doctors job to fill in the tool as not all nurses were happy to assess all the risk factors. Only half the doctors stated they used the risk assessment tool and over half the doctors felt they didn't need a form to assess VTE risk.