

## **EPIDEMIOLOGIC FEATURES OF DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS IN TAIWAN, A NATIONWIDE STUDY FROM 1997 TO 2002**

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**PURPOSE:** The average annual incidence rates of deep venous thromboembolism among whites were 100 –to 110 per 100,000 person-years. Our aim was to investigate the annual incidence of deep venous thromboembolism in Taiwan.

**METHODS:** We retrospectively collected , information from the Taiwan National Health Insurance database on hospitalized patients with a principle discharge diagnosis of deep venous thromboembolism between 1997 and 2002. Patients were examined for gender differences in incidence, clinical features, and inhospital mortality.

**RESULTS:** Of 21,720 patients with deep venous thromboembolism, the mean age was 64 years and 52.4% were women. The mean annual incidence of deep vein thrombosis was 22 per 100,000 persons. The incidence of deep vein thrombosis significantly increased directly with age from 4 per 100,000 in patients < 40 years to 129 per 100,000 in patients ≥ 70 years. The rates of co-existing malignancy and pulmonary embolism were 32.6% and 4.7%, respectively. Overall inhospital mortality was 7.2%.

**CONCLUSIONS:** This nationwide study showed that the incidence of deep vein thrombosis in Taiwan was much lower than that in Western countries. The overall incidence of deep vein thrombosis was higher in the elderly.

**Keyword:** Deep venous thromboembolism, Epidemiology, Incidence