

Anticoagulants: The Danger of Blood Clots

Naturally, when you have a cut or wound, your body will create a blood clot to help you heal from the injury.

The same process can happen inside your blood vessel.

A clot can form inside the blood vessel if: the wall becomes damaged, there is plaque on an artery wall that ruptures, or if your blood pools or collects in an area of your body like the atria of your heart or your legs.

These clots can cause potentially dangerous health problems.

A clot can fully block the flow of blood in an artery or vein. When this happens, the area surrounding the clot starts to die.

Blood clots can also travel through the body.

This moving clot is called an embolus.

The embolus may block the flow of blood in vital organs of your body, such as; your heart, which can cause a heart attack,

Your lungs, which may cause a pulmonary embolism making it very hard to breath,

Or your brain, which can cause a stroke.

All of these conditions can be potentially life threatening. The risk may be reduced by taking medications to reduce the risk of clots which are called anticoagulants.