

Cambridge English for
Nursing

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

UNIT 8 Pre-operative patient care

a Click on the link below and discuss the following questions in pairs.

<http://www.kendallhq.com/imageServer.aspx?contentID=5086&contenttype=image/jpeg>

- What do you think this equipment is used for?
- Have you used this type of equipment before?

b Listen to Adrian, a Nurse Educator, talking to Ruth, a Ward Nurse, and answer the following questions.

🔊 Technology 8

- 1 Which team is Adrian from?
- 2 What treatment plan is being discussed for Mr Ellis?
- 3 Why is this plan recommended?

c Listen again and complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

🔊 Technology 8

converts gradient calves high-risk compartment non-disposable customised

- 1 Compression sleeves are used for the prevention of DVTs and are customised for each patient.
- 2 There's an electric controller with _____ tubing attached to it.
- 3 The tubing fits onto the single-use _____ sleeves.
- 4 The three sections deliver sequential and _____ compression to ensure clearance of the deep veins.
- 5 The aim is to create pressure around the _____ and improve venous return.
- 6 They are for _____ surgical patients who cannot be given anti-coagulants.
- 7 The sleeve easily _____ from a thigh-length sleeve to a knee-length sleeve.

d Read the conversation and check your answers to Exercise c.

Adrian: Hello, I'm Adrian from the Vascular Team. I was called to come up and go through nursing care of sequential compression sleeves.

Ruth: Oh thanks, Adrian. It was me who rang you, I'm Ruth. I have a patient who has to have sequential compression sleeves. I'm not very familiar with them at all.

Adrian: No problem. Let me show you how they work. Compression sleeves are used for the prevention of DVTs and are customised for each patient.

Ruth: So they're more sophisticated than anti-embolic stockings, are they?

Adrian: That's right. Anti-embolic stockings are quite simple really in comparison. The sequential compression sleeves system has three parts. You can see them here. There's an electric controller with non-disposable tubing attached to it. The tubing fits onto the single-use compartment sleeves.

Ruth: Oh, right. So how does it work?

Adrian: The three sections deliver sequential and gradient compression to ensure clearance of the deep veins. This means that each section, or chamber, delivers pressures from sixty percent to a hundred percent, depending on the amount of pressure required. The aim is to create pressure around the calves and improve venous return.

Ruth: So which patients do you use these sequential compression sleeves on?

- Adrian:** They're for high-risk surgical patients who can't be given anticoagulants.
- Ruth:** Oh, that's why they've been suggested for Mr Ellis, isn't it?
- Adrian:** Yes, unfortunately he wasn't able to take anticoagulants.
- Ruth:** Can the sleeves be adjusted at all?
- Adrian:** Yes, and it's quite easy to do. The sleeve easily converts from a thigh-length sleeve to a knee-length sleeve
- Ruth:** They're very versatile, aren't they?
- Adrian:** Yes, they're great. They make a big difference.

Share your knowledge

Discuss the following questions in class or with a colleague and compare your experience.

What is your experience of treatment and medical procedures for blood clots?

Are you familiar with alternative treatments?

Are DVTs of significant concern in your country?

Do you think lifestyle might impact on the development of DVTs?

Are you familiar with any other preventative measures?