



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety  
Information

No.188, July 2022

# Fitting of Elastic Stockings to Patients with Arteriosclerosis Obliterans of the Lower Limbs

Seven cases have been reported in which elastic stockings were fitted to patients with arteriosclerosis obliterans of the lower limbs (information collection period: from January 1, 2018 to May 31, 2022). In six of these cases, patients developed ischemic symptoms in their lower limbs after the stockings were fitted. This information was compiled on the basis of the content featured in “Individual Theme Review” in the 48th Quarterly Report.

**Cases have been reported in which elastic stockings were fitted to patients with arteriosclerosis obliterans (ASO), affecting those patients.**

## Main Background Factors in the Fitting of the Elastic Stockings

Inadequate understanding of the patient's ASO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The physician and nurse did not realize that the patient had ASO, because they had not checked the medical records.</li> </ul>
Lack of knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The physician and nurse did not know the risks of fitting elastic stockings to a patient with ASO.</li> <li>The nurse did not know that fitting elastic stockings to a patient with ASO is contraindicated.</li> </ul>
Failure to consider advisability of fitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The physician and nurse did not consider the advisability of fitting elastic stockings.</li> <li>The nurse thought that elastic stockings should be fitted before surgery.</li> </ul>

◆ In some cases, the content of the [Warnings] and [Contraindications and Prohibitions] sections on elastic stocking package inserts varies according to the type of elastic stockings.

## Fitting of Elastic Stockings to Patients with Arteriosclerosis Obliterans

### Case 1

The emergency physician who first treated the patient, who had been brought in by ambulance, ascertained that the patient had ASO and noted this on the medical records. After the patient was admitted, the attending physician in the gastroenterology department ordered that elastic stockings be fitted, without first checking the medical records from the initial treatment. The nurse also failed to check the medical records from the initial treatment and fitted the patient with elastic stockings. Three days later, the patient complained of pain in their feet and was found to have redness at the base of the toes.

### Case 2

The attending physician in the department of internal medicine consulted the department of cardiovascular medicine, because the patient had been found to have deep venous thrombosis of the left lower limb. When doing so, the attending physician failed to pass on the information that the patient had ASO. The cardiovascular physician replied that the patient should be fitted with elastic stockings. The attending physician and nurse did not know the risks of fitting elastic stockings to a patient with ASO and went ahead with fitting them. Four days later, the nurse noticed that the skin on the patient's left lower limb was dark red.

#### Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- Physicians and nurses will check the patient has no history of ASO before fitting them with elastic stockings.
- Physicians and nurses will check the [Warnings] and [Contraindications and Prohibitions] sections on elastic stocking package inserts and consider the advisability of fitting them.

The measures above are examples. Please consider initiatives suitable for your own facility.

#### Key Preventive Measures

- Clarify the indication criteria and precautions for elastic stockings and inform all staff of them.

(Comprehensive Evaluation Panel)

\* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See the Project website for details.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

\* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

\* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

