Cerebral Venous Thrombosis (CVT)
Who is affected?
CVT is rare, affecting about 3 in every million people each year in the UK. Many are younger people and most are female.

What causes CVT?
Risk is increased by:
- Birth-control pills
- Pregnancy
- Clotting conditions that run in families
- Cancer
- Head injury
- Infections of the ear, eye or face

What is cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT)?
Blood drains from the brain into spaces called venous sinuses between the brain and skull. It then returns to the heart through veins.
In CVT, a blood clot forms in the venous sinuses. This blocks drainage of blood from the brain. It can cause bleeding and strokes that can be life-threatening.

What are the symptoms?
Common symptoms are:
- Headache.
- Confusion, drowsiness, blacking-out.
- Stroke. Changes to feeling or moving your body.
- Seizures.

Rarely some patients will have none of the usual symptoms. CVT patients are also at risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE).
In DVT a blood clot forms in the leg. In PE this breaks away and travels into the lungs.
PE is a serious condition. Possible symptoms are:
- Chest pain
- Breathlessness
- Collapse

If you experience these
Seek medical advice
How is it diagnosed?

Doctors will ask you questions

examine your eyes and body and

look at the brain using scanning machines

You may be moved to a specialist hospital.

What is the treatment?

You may be given an injection of medication called heparin.

This helps stop the clot getting worse so that your body can break it down.

The main risk is bleeding, but usually the benefits outweigh the harms.

Sometimes treatments are used to reduce pressure inside the skull, and in rare cases include an operation.

Afterwards you may be started on a tablet called warfarin.

Your doctor will discuss for how long you should take warfarin - this may be life-long.

Rehabilitation may help you recover.

If you have seizures, you may be given medications called anti-epileptic drugs.

Will my diagnosis affect my driving?

Having a CVT does not always mean a driving ban.

If you have had a stroke as part of your illness you must not drive for 1 month. If you have recovered fully you can drive again with no need to tell the DVLA (driver and vehicle licensing agency). If you still have symptoms then discuss this with your doctor.

If you have had a seizure, you must stop driving for at least 6 months and tell the DVLA.

If you have a group 2 licence (lorries and buses) seek advice as the rules are different.
How will CVT affect me?
Although CVT can be life-threatening, complications are uncommon. About 82 in 100 patients have no problems 1 year later. It is important to realise recovery can be slow. You will be followed up in clinic.
Some patients will have problems with:
- Feeling or moving parts of their body; difficulty with basic tasks
- Headaches
- Seizures
- Thinking ability

Will I have another CVT?
The risk of another CVT is low.
The risk is higher when pregnant or taking birth-control pills, and for people with clotting conditions in their family.
Your doctor can advise you.

More information
For more advice, please speak to the doctors looking after you or another member of your healthcare team.
For local stroke support groups you may wish to contact:

**Stroke Association**
Local support groups.

☎️ 0303 3033 100  
🌐 www.stroke.org.uk

If you have had a seizure, you may wish to contact:

**Epilepsy Action**
Advice about seizures.

☎️ 0808 800 5050  
🌐 www.epilepsy.org.uk

We would like to contact you after you have left hospital to ask about how helpful you found this booklet.
Please let your doctor know if you would be happy to participate.

**Thank you.**

Dr Martin Punter  
Consultant Neurologist at Salford Royal Foundation Trust

Mr James Keitley  
Medical Student at Salford Royal Foundation Trust and The University of Manchester.

Dr Punter’s secretary can be contacted on:
☎️ 0161 206 4221  
@ denise.moran@srft.nhs.uk

**If you have had a seizure, you may wish to contact:**

- **Stroke Association**
  - Local support groups.
  - ☎️ 0303 3033 100
  - 🌐 www.stroke.org.uk

- **Epilepsy Action**
  - Advice about seizures.
  - ☎️ 0808 800 5050
  - 🌐 www.epilepsy.org.uk

Thank you.
For further information on this leaflet, it's references and sources used, please contact 0161 206 4221

Copies of this information are available in other languages and formats upon request.

In accordance with the Equality Act we will make ‘reasonable adjustments’ to enable individuals with disabilities, to access this treatment / service.

If you need this interpreting please telephone
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Jeżeli potrzebne jest Państwu to tłumaczenie, proszę zadzwonić pod numer.
Urdu
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Arabic
إذا كنت بحاجة إلى تفسير أو ترجمة هذا الاتصال
Chinese
如果需要翻译，请拨打电话
Farsi
اگر به ترجمه این نیاز دارید ، لطفاً تلفن کنید ) 0161 206 0224
Email: InterpretationandTrans@srft.nhs.uk

Salford Royal operates a smoke-free policy.
For advice on stopping smoking contact the Hospital Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 0161 206 1779

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
Stott Lane, Salford,
Manchester,
M6 8HD
Telephone 0161 789 7373
www.srft.nhs.uk

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