ERN RARE-LIVER
European Reference Network on Hepatological Diseases

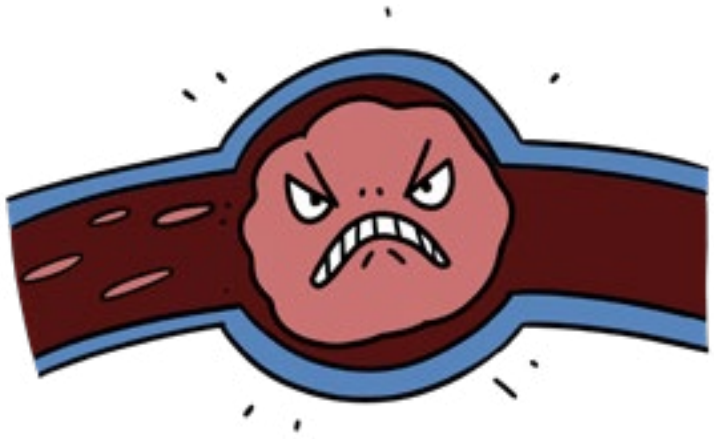
PORTAL VEIN THROMBOSIS (PVT)

NON CIRRHOTIC PORTAL VEIN THROMBOSIS (PVT)

What is PVT?

Portal vein thrombosis (PVT) is a partial or complete obstruction of the portal vein (the blood vessel that carries blood from the intestines and spleen to the liver) due to a blood clot (thrombus). The location of the thrombus varies and can be present in the main portal vein trunk and/or in the intrahepatic branches and can possibly involve splenic vein or the mesenteric veins.

PVT can occur in cirrhotic and non-cirrhotic patients with different causes and pathogenesis.
In this leaflet we refer to non malignant non-cirrhotic PVT.



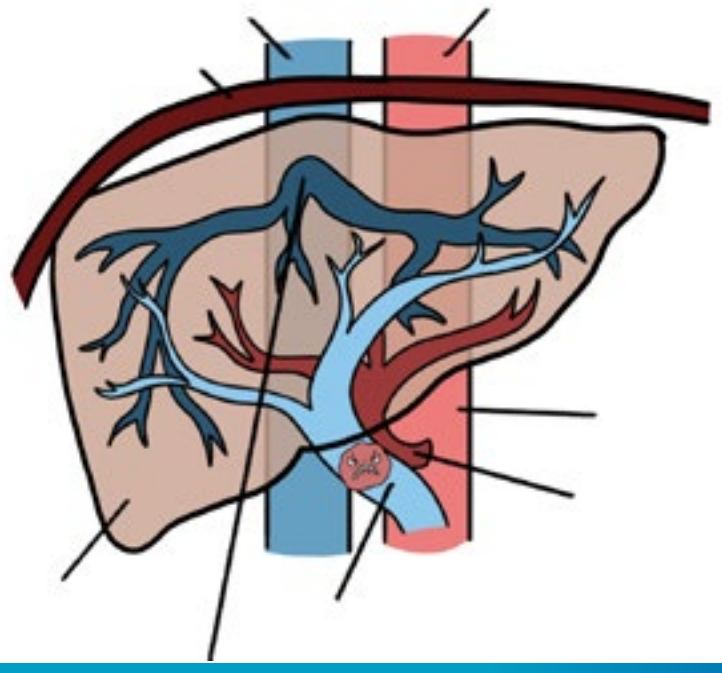
Representation of a Clot in a vessel

What are the symptoms?

PVT can present acutely (usually with symptoms) or can be identifed at a chronic stage with complications due to increased increased pressure in the portal vein (Portal Hypertension). Acute and chronic PVT are managed differently.

Recent PVT: The severity of recent PVT presentation depends mainly on the extent of thrombosis. Extensive and complete thrombosis can cause intestinal ischemia, and if not urgently treated, intestinal infarction, a very severe condition.

Symptoms are: abdominal pain, bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract, occasionally fever, diarrhea with or without blood in stool.



Source:
CENTRE DE REFERENCE DES MALADIES VASCULAIRES DU FOIE (C.R.M.V.F.)
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