

## OPEN YOUR EYES TO PULMONARY EMBOLISM (PE)

### WHAT IS A PE?

PE is a sudden blockage in a lung artery. The blockage usually is caused by a blood clot that travels to the lung from a vein in the leg, also known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

A clot that forms in one part of the body and travels in the bloodstream to another part of the body is called an embolus.

### PE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



Shortness of  
Breath and/or  
Rapid Breathing



Rapid Heart Rate



Chest Pain  
(may be worse  
upon deep breath)

### HOW A PE IS DIAGNOSED

- A blood test that looks for a protein called **D-dimer**
- A **computerized tomography pulmonary angiography (CTPA)** to see the blood vessels in your lungs
- A ventilation-perfusion scan, also called a **V/Q scan** or **isotope lung scanning**, to examine the flow of air and blood in your lungs
- Leg vein ultrasound to confirm you have a clot in the leg

### PE RISK FACTORS

- Medical History
- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Surgery
- Bed Rest / Immobility
- Long Trips
- Smoking
- Being Overweight
- Supplemental Estrogen
- Pregnancy

### WHAT IS VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM?

DVT is a blood clot that forms in a vein deep in the body, mostly occurring in the legs, can often times travel to the lungs, creating a PE.

When this occurs, it is called a venous thromboembolism (VTE).

VTE is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide.

**DVT+PE=**  
**VTE**