

PULMONARY EMBOLISM

BLOOD CLOT IN THE LUNG

What is pulmonary embolism (PE)?

Pulmonary embolism (*PUL-ma-neh-ree EM-ba-li-zum*), also known as PE, is a life-threatening condition where the blood flow in your lungs is blocked. This is usually caused by a loose blood clot that traveled through the bloodstream to the lungs.

What symptoms are common in PE?

Symptoms may include:

- Shortness of breath or chest pain
- Cough, even coughing up blood
- Leg pain, swelling, or both
- Clammy skin or changes in your skin color
- Heavy sweating
- Fast or irregular heartbeat
- Feeling lightheaded or dizzy



Most of the clots in PE come from:

- ① A blood clot that formed in a vein deep in your body. This is called **deep vein thrombosis** (*deep vayn throm-BO-sis*), or DVT
 - This clot usually starts in your lower leg or thigh
- ② The clot could break away and be carried to your lungs through the bloodstream
- ③ Once in your lungs, the clot could block blood flow

	Reasons for a blood clot can include:
	Keeping still for a long time
	Blood clotting disorder
	Cancer or cancer treatment
	Older age
	Heart failure
	Pacemaker or vein catheter
	Smoking
	Pregnancy or giving birth
	Medicines, like birth control
	Inflammatory bowel disease
	Being overweight
	Personal/family history of lung or deep vein clots
	Vein injury
	Surgery and certain medicines given during surgery

You have a higher chance of developing PE if you've had a clot in your lung or in a vein deep in your body before.

