

## Pulmonary Embolism

A pulmonary embolism (PE) is a potentially life-threatening condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in one of the pulmonary arteries, which are the blood vessels that supply the lungs. The clot typically originates from a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in the legs, where it can break loose and travel through the bloodstream, eventually blocking one of the arteries in the lungs.

Symptoms of a pulmonary embolism can vary depending on the size and location of the clot. Common signs and symptoms may include:

1. Sudden shortness of breath, which may worsen with exertion.
2. Chest pain or discomfort, which may be sharp and worsen with deep breathing or coughing.
3. Rapid or irregular heartbeat.
4. Cough, which may produce blood-streaked sputum.
5. Sweating.
6. Feeling lightheaded or fainting.

It is important to note that not everyone with a pulmonary embolism will experience all of these symptoms, and some individuals may not have any symptoms at all, especially if the clot is small.

Pulmonary embolisms are typically diagnosed through a combination of medical history evaluation, physical examination, and diagnostic tests. These tests may include imaging techniques like a computed tomography pulmonary angiogram (CTPA), ventilation-perfusion (V/Q) scan, or ultrasound of the legs to identify any blood clots.

Immediate treatment for a pulmonary embolism is vital as it can be life threatening. Its of paramount importance that you consult your doctors at SunStar Clinics if you or anyone whom you suspect have symptoms of pulmonary embolism. Remember – Don't delay as it is fatal if undiagnosed or untreated.

Recovery from a pulmonary embolism depends on the size of the clot, the extent of damage to the lungs, and the overall health of the individual. Most people with a pulmonary embolism can recover fully with appropriate treatment and follow-up care. However, it is crucial to seek medical attention immediately if you suspect a pulmonary embolism, as prompt diagnosis and treatment are essential for a positive outcome.