

## 15. Anesthesia, surgery, and thrombophilia

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**Q: "My son, now 5, is healthy, but has been diagnosed with hetero FV Leiden after I was found to have it. My question is about dental work, specifically general anesthesia: is it safe? Are there any precautions for children regarding this or anything else of which I should be aware?"**

A: General anesthesia in individuals with factor V Leiden (or any other thrombophilia) is as safe, as in people who do not have factor V Leiden (or another thrombophilia). Special precautions are not necessary, unless the patient is immobilized after the surgery. This is obviously not expected after dental surgery.

The patient with factor V Leiden or any other thrombophilia should always tell his/her surgeon about his/her clotting tendency or about a family history of clotting. While all patients are at increased risk for DVT and PE after arthroscopic or major surgery (especially after joint replacement and pelvic surgery), the patient with an inherited clotting abnormality is at even higher risk. Particularly careful DVT prophylaxis is therefore necessary, if the patient is bedridden or immobilized for some time.