

Venous thromboembolism: a patient safety approach

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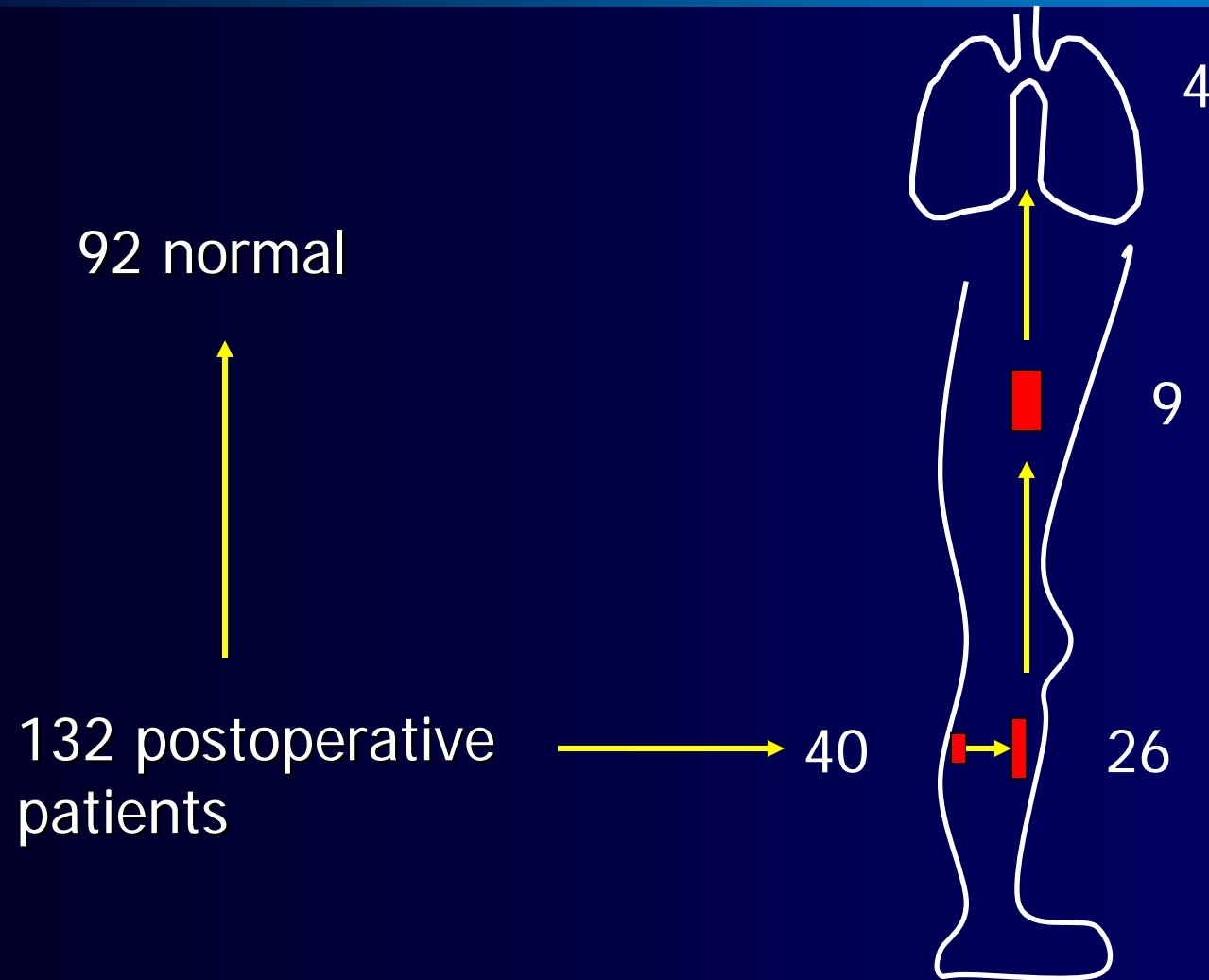
My talk today

- ▶ Recognition of the problem
- ▶ Parliamentary enquiry
- ▶ The Government response
- ▶ Implementation

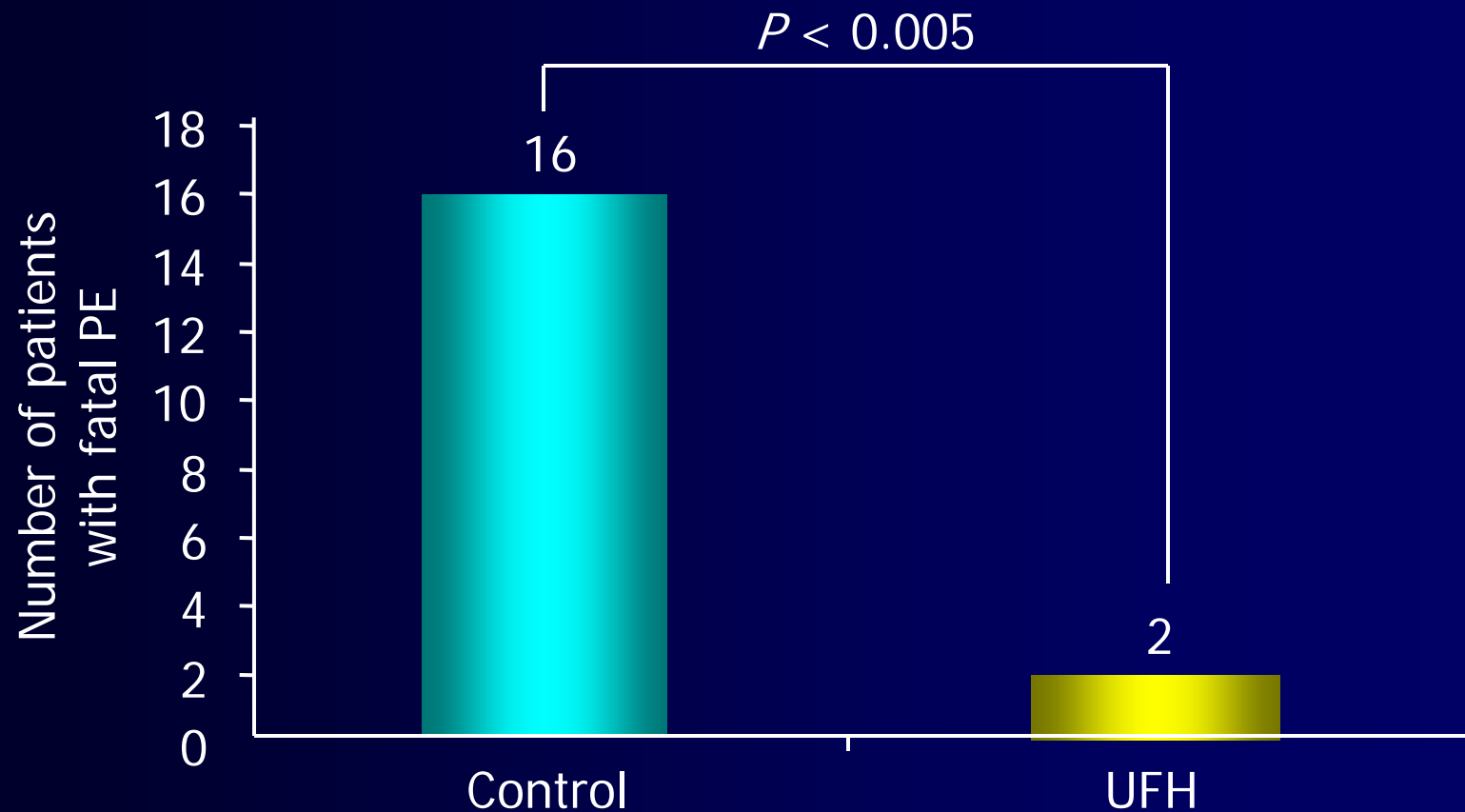
VTE today

- ▶ VTE is a common disease
- ▶ Commonest avoidable cause of hospital death
- ▶ Patient safety issue
- ▶ Can a systems approach improve outcomes

Natural history of postoperative DVT



Prophylaxis of fatal, postoperative PE with low-dose UFH



Low-dose UFH saves 7 lives for every 1000 operated patients.

Healthcare system intervention

- ▶ United Kingdom
- ▶ France
- ▶ United States of America

Select Committees

Select Committees

- ▶ Set up by either House
- ▶ Usually for a whole Parliament
- ▶ Examine particular subjects
- ▶ Do not usually look at bills
- ▶ Have the power to take evidence and issue reports

- ▶ House of Commons
 - departmental (e.g. Health Agriculture)
 - non-departmental (e.g. environmental audit)

- ▶ House of the Lords
- ▶ Select Committees do not mirror government departments but cover broader issues such as science and technology, the economy, and the European Union



Tasks and objectives (I)

- ▶ **Objective A:** to examine and comment on the policy of the department, e.g.
 - policy proposals from the UK government and the European Commission of areas of emerging policy, or where existing policy is deficient, and make proposals
- ▶ **Objective B:** to examine the expenditure of the department
- ▶ **Objective C:** to examine the administration of the department
- ▶ **Objective D:** to assist the House in debate and decision
 - to produce reports which are suitable for debate in the House

Tasks and objectives (II)

- ▶ Not all inquiries involve all core tasks and objectives
- ▶ VTE inquiry
 - identify and examine areas of emerging policy, or where existing policy is deficient, and make proposals
 - monitor work of the department's Executive Agencies, NDPBs, regulators, and other associated bodies (particularly NICE in this case)



House of Commons
Health Committee

The Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in Hospitalised Patients

Second Report of Session 2004–05

*Report, together with formal minutes, oral and
written evidence*

*Ordered by The House of Commons
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House of Commons Health Committee

- ▶ Each year over 25,000 people in England die from venous thromboembolism (VTE) contracted in hospital
- ▶ Reasons
 - physicians unaware of the problem
 - many events after discharge
 - lack of guidelines!!!

House of Commons Health Committee: recommendations

- ▶ On admission to hospital all patients should undergo a risk assessment
- ▶ Raise awareness about VTE after discharge
- ▶ Royal Colleges should raise awareness and audit use of the guidelines
- ▶ Establish thrombosis committees and teams

Government response to the House of Commons Health Committee Report

- ▶ The Government agrees
- ▶ Requires rapid and comprehensive action
- ▶ Commissioning guidelines from NICE
- ▶ Healthcare Commission to inspect hospitals
- ▶ The Chief Medical Officer has written to all doctors to remind them of the guidance that exists
- ▶ Develop a comprehensive strategy
- ▶ Independent expert working group

Government response to the House of Commons Health Committee Report: specific recommendations (I)

- ▶ That when a patient develops VTE after discharge from hospital the original surgeon/physician should be notified
- ▶ We note that the ACCP has recently produced its seventh revision of guidelines and SIGN introduced their guidelines in 1995. It is astonishing that there has been no development of national guidelines in England and Wales

Government response to the House of Commons Health Committee Report: specific recommendations (II)

- ▶ More prominence in undergraduate medical education & Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- ▶ Currently accepted consensus guidelines are circulated
- ▶ That procedures for counseling both medical and surgical patients be supported by hospital specialist thrombosis teams
- ▶ We recommend that all patients, both medical and surgical, who are admitted to hospital undergo a risk assessment for venous thrombosis

Government response to the House of Commons Health Committee Report: specific recommendations (III)

- ▶ The implementation of systems and structures to improve the NHS's capacity
- ▶ That the Healthcare Commission undertakes an investigation into the availability and use of VTE prevention protocols in each hospital and should also audit the training
- ▶ We recommend that a thrombosis committee be established in each hospital

Expert working group

- ▶ Established by CMO
- ▶ Considered detailed options
- ▶ Detailed implementation strategy

Conclusions

- ▶ In the UK
 - Recognition of the magnitude of the problem
 - Parliamentary Enquiry
 - Interest of politicians
- ▶ Development of a public health/patient safety focus
- ▶ Major challenge: implementation