

# DISSEMINATED INTRAVASCULAR COAGULATION

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Widespread activation of the clotting cascade that results in the formation of blood clots in the small vessels throughout the body, normal clotting is disrupted and severe bleeding and hemorrhage occurs

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Ecchymosis, hematomas, hemoptysis, occult blood in stool (melena), anxiety, dyspnea, pale skin, chest pain, hematuria, hematoma, confusion, prolonged aPTT, PTT and thrombin time, decreased platelets, and hemorrhaging from many orifices.

## DIAGNOSTICS

- Blood testing such as clotting factors
- Platelets
- Hemoglobin
- Hematocrit

## NURSING PRIORITIES

- Promote fluid balance
- Promote optimal cardiovascular function
- Prevent shock

## THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Give clotting factors and platelets via IV
- Determine underlying cause and treat it
- Monitor I&Os
- Initiate bleeding and fall precautions
- Monitor vital signs
- Treat hypovolemia.

## MEDICATION THERAPY

- Heparin
- Antithrombin
- Platelets
- Blood product clotting factors