

**PROCRIT® (epoetin alfa)**  
**Can PROCRT Cause Heart Attacks, Stroke, or Blood Clots?**

## SUMMARY

Here is a passage from the PROCRT MEDICATION GUIDE, which may be helpful in addressing your question:

### Can PROCRT Cause Heart Attacks, Stroke, or Blood Clots?

**For all people who take PROCRT, including people with cancer or chronic kidney disease, PROCRT may cause serious side effects that can lead to death, including:<sup>1</sup>**

- **Serious heart problems, such as heart attack or heart failure, and stroke.** You may die sooner if you are treated with PROCRT to increase red blood cells (RBCs) to near the same level found in healthy people.<sup>1</sup>
- **Blood clots.** Blood clots may happen at any time while taking PROCRT. If you are receiving PROCRT for any reason and you are going to have surgery, talk to your healthcare provider about whether or not you need to take a blood thinner to lessen the chance of blood clots during or following surgery. Blood clots can form in blood vessels (veins), especially in your leg (deep venous thrombosis or DVT). Pieces of a blood clot may travel to the lungs and block the blood circulation in the lungs (pulmonary embolus).<sup>1</sup>
- Call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away if you have any of these symptoms<sup>1</sup>:
  - Chest pain
  - Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
  - Pain in your legs, with or without swelling
  - A cool or pale arm or leg
  - Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or trouble understanding others' speech
  - Sudden numbness or weakness in your face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of your body
  - Sudden trouble seeing
  - Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
  - Loss of consciousness (fainting)
  - Hemodialysis vascular access stops working

If you decide to take PROCRT, your healthcare provider should prescribe the smallest dose of PROCRT that is necessary to reduce your chance of needing RBC transfusions.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This information is provided ONLY in response to your request and is not intended as medical advice, to promote the use of our product, or suggest using it in any manner other than as described in the PRESCRIBING INFORMATION. All decisions regarding your medical treatment should be made with your healthcare professional(s). Please contact your healthcare team(s) to discuss the information in this response.

Please refer to the attached full PRESCRIBING INFORMATION and the MEDICATION GUIDE for PROCRT.<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCE

1. PROCRT (epoetin alfa) [Medication Guide]. Horsham, PA: Janssen Products, LP; <https://www.janssenlabels.com/package-insert/product-patient-information/PROCRIT-medication-guide.pdf>.