

**PRESS RELEASE 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005**

## **UK Airlines welcome DVT research findings**

The British Air Transport Association welcomes the results of international research into air travel and Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT). The findings, published by the UK Government today, confirm that air travel itself provides no significant additional risk in the development of a DVT.

This research, undertaken under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO), also confirms that prolonged immobility is a factor influencing personal risk.

“UK airlines operating long-haul services will continue to provide advice to their customers on the best way to manage their journey including in-seat exercises.” Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General of BATA said. “We have every sympathy with any victim of DVT, which is a general (though infrequent) medical condition and which can occur without previous symptoms. We recommend that anyone planning to take a long journey by whatever means – air, rail, coach or car - who feels they have personal factors which make them more at risk from blood clotting or DVT should take the advice of their GP about any additional measures that may be necessary to manage the journey.”

Notes to Editors:

1. BATA represents UK registered airlines including all those operating long-haul services
2. This research follows a recommendation in the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee Report into Air Travel and Health ( 2000).
3. Following the House of Lords Report UK airlines operating long-haul flights reviewed the information and advice they provide for passengers. Information was made available on websites and, where appropriate, with the ticket. It is also provided during the journey through in-flight magazines, videos and is mentioned in announcements. The advice includes suggested in-seat exercises.
4. The Department of Health advice on DVT is available at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/BloodSafety/VTE/fs/en>

British Air Transport Association  
December 2005