

IN A NUTSHELL

The knowledge platform for general practitioners

Wells' Criteria for Deep Vein Thrombosis

The Wells' Criteria for deep vein thrombosis (DVT) can be used to estimate the probability of DVT based on the patient history and clinical criteria. This provides a recommendation for further diagnostics depending on the pre-test probability.

Active cancer

Treatment within the last 6 months or palliative therapy

No Yes (+1)

Paralysis, paresis, recent immobilization of lower extremities

No Yes (+1)

Bedridden (? 3 days) or major surgery in the last 12 weeks

No Yes (+1)

Localized pain or induration along the deep venous system

No Yes (+1)

Whole leg swollen

No Yes (+1)

Calf swelling (? 3 cm/1.2 inch) in a side by side comparison
measured 10 cm/3.9 inch below the tibial tuberosity

No Yes (+1)

Pitting edema on the symptomatic leg

No Yes (+1)

Superficial (non-varicose) collateral veins

No Yes (+1)

Previously documented deep vein thrombosis

No Yes (+1)

Alternative diagnosis to deep vein thrombosis as likely or more likely

No Yes (-2)

Wells' Criteria for Deep Vein Thrombosis:

Recommendation:

Interpretation**Score****Classification and recommendation****Deep vein thrombosis unlikely**

Recommendation: perform D-dimer test

- ? 1 - If D-dimer is negative, deep vein thrombosis can be excluded.
- If D-dimer is positive, duplex sonography should be performed to exclude deep vein thrombosis.

? 2 Deep vein thrombosis likely

Recommendation: Duplex sonography should be performed to exclude deep vein thrombosis.

References

1. Wells PS, Anderson DR, Rodger M et al. Evaluation of D-dimer in the diagnosis of suspected deep-vein thrombosis. N Engl J Med 2003; 349: 1227-1235