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DVT WELLS SCORE AND D DIMER PREDICTION

D-dimer is a thrombus breakdown product that is almost always detected in the blood of patients with DVT. Sensitive d-dimer assays (using whole blood or ELISA methods) have been used to exclude DVT and reduce the need for imaging. Patients who have a low probability of DVT, as assessed by a standardised clinical scoring system such as the Wells score[1] (Table 1), and who also have a negative d-dimer test can safely have anticoagulation withheld. D-dimer is not able to exclude DVT in patients with a high Wells score so those patients require diagnostic imaging.

Table 1

Wells score for clinical assessment of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) [1]

Clinical feature	Score
Active cancer	1
Paralysis, paresis or plaster immobilisation of the lower extremities	1
Bedridden for three days or major surgery, within four weeks	1
Localised tenderness along the deep venous system	1
Entire leg swollen	1
Calf diameter more than 3 cm larger on the symptomatic side	1
Pitting oedema greater on symptomatic side	1
Collateral nonvaricose superficial veins	1
Alternative diagnosis more probable than DVT	–2
Probability of DVT:	
low	0
moderate	1 or 2
high	3 or more