INDICATIONS FOR TESTING
Testing for APS is appropriate in individuals who have an increased likelihood for the disorder, including those with:
• Arterial thrombosis, unprovoked venous thrombosis, or evidence of brain ischemia before 50 yrs of age
• Unexplained recurrent thrombosis
• Thrombosis at an unusual site
• Extensive microvascular thrombi
• Pregnancy loss or complications
• A diagnosis of SLE

ORDER
Criteria testing:
• 2 LA reflex testsbc
• aCL antibodies, IgG and IgM
• Anti-β2GP1 antibodies, IgG and IgM

All negative
Strong suspicion of APS?
No
Yes

≥1 criteria tests positive
Repeat criteria testing after 12 wks

CONSIDER
Noncriteria testing:
• aPS/PT antibodies, IgG and IgM
• aPS antibodies, IgG and IgM
• aPT antibodies, IgG
• Anti-β2GP1, IgA
• aCL antibody, IgA

All negative
≥1 noncriteria test positive

No further testing
CONSIDER
• Repeat noncriteria testing after 12 wks to demonstrate persistence
• Referral to a specialist

≥1 criteria tests persistently positive
History of ≥1 clinical criteriaa within past 5 yrs?
No
Yes

Monitor for clinical manifestations of APS
APS confirmed

Abbreviations
aCL Anticardiolipin
Anti-β2GP1 Anti-beta-2 glycoprotein 1
APS Antiphospholipid syndrome
aPS Antiphosphatidylserine
aPS/PT Antiphosphatidylserine/prothrombin complex
aPT Antiprothrombin
aPTT Activated partial thromboplastin time
dRVVT Dilute Russell viper venom time
IgA Immunoglobulin A
LA Lupus anticoagulant
SLE Systemic lupus erythematosus

References

a For specific clinical criteria in APS classification, refer to the ARUP Consult Antiphospholipid Syndrome - APS topic.
b LA testing should include at least 2 different phospholipid-dependent clot-based assays (eg, aPTT and dRVVT) performed in parallel. Reflex patterns should include screening, mixing, and confirmation steps. Assays may be available individually or as part of a panel.
c False-negative and/or false-positive results can occur due to anticoagulant therapy, pregnancy, acute inflammation, etc. Refer to the ARUP Consult Antiphospholipid Syndrome - APS topic for additional information on testing strategy.