

Deep Vein Thrombosis Testing

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Abbreviations
 ASH American Society of Hematology
 DVT Deep vein thrombosis

INDICATIONS FOR TESTING
 Symptoms of first episode of DVT^a (eg, unilateral limb pain, redness, swelling, warmth, tenderness, edema)

PERFORM
 Pretest probability assessment that is appropriate for the clinical situation (eg, [Wells' criteria for DVT](#))

Potential lower-extremity DVT Potential upper-extremity DVT

Low risk Intermediate risk^b High risk Unlikely Likely

ORDER
 High-sensitivity D-dimer^c

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Either D-dimer or imaging studies may be appropriate for initial assessment

Negative

Positive

Perform appropriate imaging studies^d

Negative

Positive

Perform appropriate imaging studies^d

DVT ruled out

Negative

Positive

DVT confirmed

DVT ruled out

Negative

Positive

DVT confirmed

^aIn cases of suspected **recurrent** lower-extremity DVT, D-dimer should be the initial test for those with an **unlikely** pretest probability assessment, and imaging should be the initial test for those with a **likely** pretest probability assessment.
^bHigh-sensitivity D-dimer may be considered for some intermediate-risk patients if prevalence is estimated at <15%. If D-dimer is performed and positive, proceed to imaging.
^cIf D-dimer is not available in a timely manner or if the patient has another underlying condition that would cause a baseline elevation of D-dimer, proceed directly to imaging studies.
^dFor the specific recommended imaging studies, see the [ASH 2018 Guidelines for Management of Venous Thromboembolism: Diagnosis of Venous Thromboembolism](#).

Reference
 Lim W, Le Gal G, Bates SM, et al. [American Society of Hematology 2018 guidelines for management of venous thromboembolism: diagnosis of venous thromboembolism](#). *Blood Adv*. 2018;2(22):3226-3256.