

# 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:

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**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