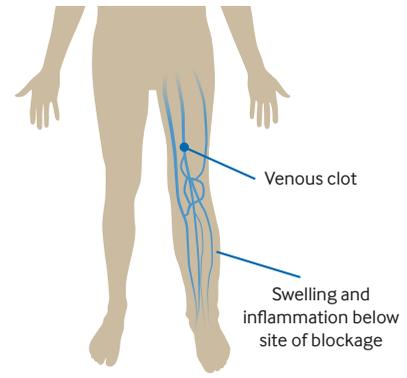


An approach to symptoms suggestive of lower limb deep vein thrombosis (DVT)



## Clinical suspicion of DVT

Common symptoms:

- Swelling
- Redness
- Pain

Typically throbbing in nature, and comes on while walking or bearing weight

Patients may also be asymptomatic, having had investigation for other conditions such as pulmonary embolism or malignancy



## Modified Wells score (2003)

Active cancer treatment (ongoing, within 6 months, or palliative) <b>+1</b>	Paralysis, paresis, recent immobilisation of the lower limbs <b>+1</b>	Recently bedridden for more than 3 days, or major surgery within 4 weeks <b>+1</b>	Alternative diagnosis as likely, or more likely than DVT <b>-2</b>
Localised tenderness along distribution of deep venous system <b>+1</b>	Entire leg swelling <b>+1</b>	Calf swelling >3cm compared with asymptomatic leg <b>+1</b>	
Pitting oedema (greater in symptomatic leg) <b>+1</b>	Collateral superficial veins (non-varicose) <b>+1</b>	Previous documented DVT <b>+1</b>	

Total score: -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

DVT unlikely (scores -2 to 1) | DVT likely (scores 2 to 9)

The D-dimer blood test has high sensitivity but is not very specific. D-dimer can be raised in other conditions, including:

- Malignancy
- Infection
- Pregnancy
- Post surgery
- Inflammation/trauma

High/moderate sensitive D-dimer test

- Negative
- Positive

If D-dimer not available or inappropriate

Either proximal or whole leg ultrasound is recommended in high risk cases

Lower limb ultrasound

- Negative
- Positive

Lower limb ultrasound

- Negative
- Positive

Proximal, above knee ultrasound is recommended in low risk cases

Discuss with specialist  
Consider interim ultrasound or alternate imaging

**DVT excluded**

**!** If diagnostic testing will take longer than 4 hours, begin interim anticoagulation treatment

**Treat as DVT**

