



How are blood clots diagnosed

1600 7th Ave S • Birmingham, AL 35233 • 205.638.9285 • Hematology/Oncology

Your doctor will:

- Obtain a medical history.
- Perform a physical exam.
- Order blood tests and/or imaging studies.

What imaging tests will be done?

- To diagnose DVT
 - Doppler ultrasound is most commonly used.
 - It allows the doctor to look at the blood clot and measure the blood flow through blood vessels.
- To diagnose PE
 - CT scan uses x-rays taken from a lot of angles to make detailed pictures of the inside of the body.
 - V/Q scan (ventilation/perfusion lung scan) uses a small amount of radioactive material to study the airflow (ventilation) and blood flow (perfusion) in the lungs.

For more information, visit stoptheclot.org.

How are Blood clots treated

The main treatment for blood clots is anticoagulant medications (blood thinners). The goals of these medicines are:

- To keep the clot from getting bigger
- To stop the clot from breaking and going to other parts of your body (lungs/brain).
- To stop a new clot from forming
- To decrease long term effects of having a clot

How are blood thinners taken?

- Blood thinners may be given as a pill by mouth, a shot into the skin or through a shot into a vein.
- The length of treatment varies between patients and may continue for weeks, months or years.
- Your doctor will decide how long you need to be treated with blood thinners, depending on why you developed a clot.
- You will need to have blood work done make sure you have the right amount of medicine in your body. You may bleed too much if you have too much medicine in your body. If you do not have enough medicine in your body, you could get another blood clot.