Title: Point-Of-Care Testing (POCT) for D-Dimer in Patients with Suspected Pulmonary Embolism or Deep Vein Thrombosis: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines for Use

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Research question:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of point-of-care testing (POCT) for D-dimer as a diagnostic test for pulmonary embolism (PE) or deep vein thrombosis (DVT)?

2. What are the guidelines for the use of point-of-care testing (POCT) for D-dimer?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and April 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to the initial search of this topic. For the supplementary question, filters were applied to limit the results to guidelines only. Internet links are provided, where applicable.

Results:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs), observational studies and evidence-based guidelines.

Two systematic reviews, one RCT, 17 observational studies and three guidelines were identified pertaining to the clinical effectiveness and guidelines for use of POCT for D-dimer as a diagnostic test for PE or DVT. One health technology assessment that may of relevance was identified and has been included, along with additional references that may be of interest, in the Appendix.
Health technology assessments
None identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations


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Appendix – Further information:

Health technology assessments


Review articles


Additional references


