

Why will I receive an account ?

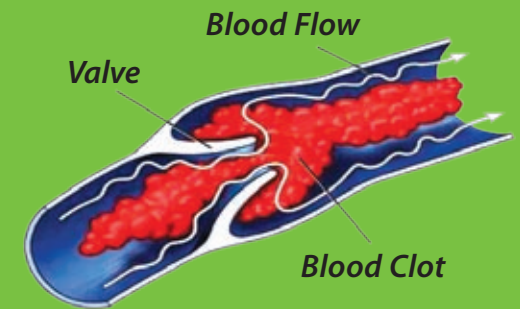
Thrombophilia testing is a very specialised procedure sometimes involving a set of up to nine different individual tests. These tests are technically difficult to perform. Maintenance of sample integrity throughout the whole process from initial collection to the completion of the full range of tests is critical and requires significant coordination of all those involved at every level of the process.

Every Thrombophilia Screen is interpreted by one of our specialist Haematologists, who provide an individualised clinical interpretation of your risk of thrombosis, based on your results.

You will receive an account for this test, if you have had any of the six traditional tests performed (ATIII, PC, PS, aPCR, FVL, PT20210). Medicare will cover a proportion of this account and there will be an out-of-pocket expense to all patients (For details of the exact cost, see our Billing Guide for Out Patients, My pathology Test What will it cost?). In line with our normal billing policy, Health Care Cardholders, Pensioners, Veterans with Gold Cards and residents of Nursing Homes will be exempt from this out-of-pocket charge.

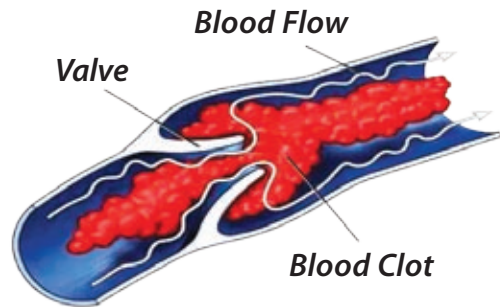
Thrombophilia Testing

Assessing risk of blood clots (thrombosis)



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Information for Patients



What is thrombosis and Thrombophilia?

Thrombosis is a relatively common medical problem, due to blood clot formation within the circulation. It can affect either veins or arteries. Thrombosis is a serious condition, sometimes fatal, and often causing pain, swelling and inconvenience for some months.

Venous thrombosis is Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or Pulmonary Embolus (PE, clot on the lung)

Arterial thrombosis is coronary artery disease (myocardial infarct, heart attack, cardiac failure) and cerebral vascular disease (stroke, TIA).

Thrombophilia is literally a love for clotting. Some people have well defined risk-factors that increase the risk of future clots.

Our understanding of the process of thrombosis and the factors that lead to thrombosis are becoming clearer. Western Diagnostic Pathology can perform all the tests currently available for assessing the risk of thrombosis.

These risks factors are now being used to tailor management of clots and help prevent future events for individual patients.

What are the tests involved in Thrombophilia Testing?

There are a number of tests traditionally performed as outlined below:

- *Antithrombin III (ATIII) levels*
- *Protein C level (PC)*
- *Protein S level (PS)*
- *Activated protein C resistance test (aPCR)*
- *Prothrombin gene mutation (PT20210)*
- *Factor V Leiden (FVL) gene mutation*

And a number of additional tests that may be performed based on your clinical or family history:

- *Lupus anticoagulant (LU)*
- *Anticardiolipin antibodies (aCL)*
- *Homocysteine levels (HOM)*
- *Factor VIII levels (FVIII)*

These ten factors are all well-recognised defects that increase the risk of clots by 2-20 times.

The tests are very varied in their nature, and many are complex to analyse. Two of the tests are gene tests involving identification of mutations (changes) in DNA structure.

Western Diagnostic Pathology provides the full suite of tests on-site without having to send some of the tests to other laboratories for specialised testing. Benefits of this are (a) the results are available more swiftly and (b) your doctor will receive a single summary report outlining all the tests and their implications on a single page.

Our Special Coagulation Lab and Molecular Lab perform these tests regularly throughout the week to ensure the results are available in a timely manner.

Arranging the test

The blood for these specialised tests can be taken at most of the Western Diagnostic Pathology Collection Centres throughout WA and NT. Please call the collection centre to ensure they are able to take the samples and process them correctly.

You do not need to do anything special before the specimens are collected. You do not need to be fasting. The tests may be collected at any time of the day. There is however, very stringent sample preparation and preservation conditions that must be met by our staff after the samples have been collected.

If you are taking warfarin anticoagulant the tests for Protein C and S cannot be performed, but all the others can be done.