

## Wells' Criteria for Pulmonary Embolism

The Wells' Criteria for pulmonary embolism are used to calculate the probability of a pulmonary embolism in a patient. The criteria include: clinical signs of DVT, PE is the most likely diagnosis, tachycardia, immobility for greater than 3 days, previous history of DVT or PE, hemoptysis and malignancy. Each criteria is associated with a point score. The total score correlates with a probability of having a pulmonary embolism. A score greater than 6 indicates a high probability, 2-6 is a moderate probability, while less than 2 is associated with a low probability.



PLAY PICMONIC

### Scoring

#### Clinical Symptoms of DVT (+3)

##### Symptoms of Deep V Tee (red and swollen calf)

3 points are counted in patients with clinical signs and symptoms of DVT. These include swelling of the leg or along a vein in the leg, pain or tenderness in the leg, increased warmth in the area of the leg that's swollen or painful, or red or discolored skin on the leg.

#### Pulmonary Embolism Most Likely Diagnosis (+3)

##### Obvious Pulmonary Embolism

If the alternative diagnosis is less likely than PE, 3 points are added to the score.

#### Tachycardia (+1.5)

##### Tac-heart-card

If the patient has tachycardia (Heart rate > 100), 1.5 points are added to the score.

#### Immobilization > 3 Days (+1.5)

##### Immobilized Greater-than 3 days

If the patient has a history of immobilization for greater than 3 days, or recent surgery in previous 4 weeks, 1.5 points are added to their score.

#### Previous DVT or PE (+1.5)

##### Old DVT and Pulmonary Embolism

If they have a previous history of DVT or PE, 1.5 points are added to their score.

#### Hemoptysis (+1)

##### Red-mop coughing blood

If the patient displays hemoptysis, the score gains 1 point.

#### Malignancy (+1)

##### Malignant-man

If the patient has untreated cancer, one undergoing treatment currently, or in last 6 months, or if they are receiving palliative care, the score increases by 1 point.

## Probability

### > 6 = High

Greater-than 6 is High

A score of greater than 6 correlates with a high probability of pulmonary embolism.

### 2-6 = Moderate

2 to 6 is Moderate

A score of 2-6 correlates with a moderate probability of pulmonary embolism.

### 2 = Low

Less-than 2 is Low

A score of less than 2 indicates a low probability of diagnosing a pulmonary embolism.