



Thrombophilia Screening and Family Testing

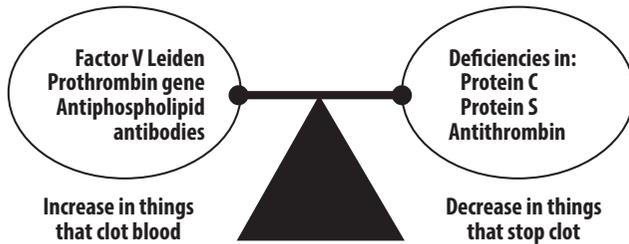
What is thrombophilia?

Thrombophilia is something that makes your blood clot more easily than other people.

- Too much of something that is used to clot the blood
- Too little of something that stops the blood from clotting

What is thrombophilia screening?

- Blood tests that can look for thrombophilia (usually genetic or passed on through the family)
- Some examples of common tests:



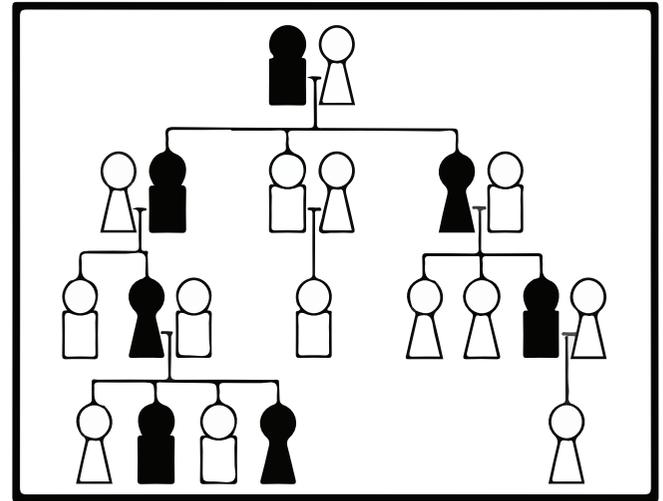
Who should be tested?

Most people *do not* need testing.

Life insurance is harder to get if something is found.

Sometimes testing is done at the wrong time and results can be confusing.

Testing consumes valuable healthcare resources.



What if I have a thrombophilia?

Having a thrombophilia may increase your chance of forming a first time blood clot (still a small chance).

If you have never had a blood clot, you do not need treatment.

If you have a blood clot, usually other things that cause blood clots are more important than thrombophilias.

Because of this, treatment of a blood clot does not change if you get tested for thrombophilia or not.

If you are pregnant or on estrogen, talk to your doctor to see if this is important.

What about my family?

There is no need to test everyone in your family.

Having a close relative with a blood clot increases your chances of forming a blood clot, even if family testing is negative because there may be things that we cannot test for.

Family members should know the symptoms of blood clot, and things that can increase their risk so they can talk to their doctors if these happen to them.

Take Away Message

- Many things can increase the risk of forming a blood clot
- Genetic testing does not change how you are treated for blood clots
- Testing for thrombophilia should not be done in most people and their families