

Moderator: Does it make a difference in DVT if you have the anticardiolipin antibodies (ACA) but not the lupus anticoagulant antibody?

Dr. Yeo: Yes, it does. Just to go over the data if you look at people with just ACA, it is associated with an increased risk. But the risk is dose related: the higher your ACA level is the greater the risk. Generally we use the medium to high level cutoff of 30-40 gpls (which is the unit we measure this.) Levels above those are really at significant risk. To put it in real terms if we look at all patients with a positive ACA they have a 1.5 fold increased risk. If you have high titres of ACA then you have a 5 fold increased risk (That is a little above the risk of going on the birth control pill). If you have the lupus anticoagulant, which is another type of antibody amongst the series of antibodies, then your risk goes through the roof; it goes up tenfold.