

Q: Should lupus patients have their Antiphospholipid Antibody (APA) levels checked regularly so they know their risk for deep vein thrombosis (DVT)?

Dr. Yeo: While I am not a rheumatologist, I would recommend that a lupus patient have their APA assessed at least once and if it is negative then I suppose one could make an argument whether it needs to be tested repeatedly thereafter. If you are positive then it is very useful information especially if your anticardiolipin antibody titre is high then your risk is markedly elevated. If you have a high lupus anticoagulant even if you have not had a DVT you know you fall into the at risk population. So it is valuable information for you to have and your physician to have because we just talked about issues of prevention and it would make a lot more sense for those people with lupus to take some kind of active intervention during periods of increased risk.