

Haematology consult guide

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In a hurry? Make sure you know:

- Full blood count (recent, preferably that day).
- Vital signs and temperature.

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What history should JMOs know/collect?

- History of bleeding or bruising.
- History of deep venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism - provoked or unprovoked? Superficial or deep? How long ago was the VTE?
- What anticoagulant the patient is on, indication and the time of last dose.
- Contraindications to anticoagulation?
- Any new drugs which have been started?
- History of haematological malignancy and treatment.
- Regarding derangements in full blood count: new or chronic, trend of any abnormalities, correlation with previous results outside of hospital is also valuable.
- What haematologist (if any) the patient is known to/has seen in the past.

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What examinations and investigations should JMOs perform/collect results of?

- Vitals, especially temperature.
- Weight.

- Haematological examination if relevant (lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, hepatomegaly).
- Full blood count and differentials including the neutrophil count.
- Creatinine clearance (based on weight) – required for most anticoagulants.

What additional information would impress you?

- Details of recent chemotherapy treatment, including timing.
- Previous blood counts and/or scan results.

What are common mistakes/omissions made by JMOs?

- Use your online local resources for reversal of anti-coagulation that are available on your hospital intranet.
- Haematology can assist you in how to reverse coagulation but typically cardiology should be consulted regarding risks/ benefits of reversal in patients in atrial fibrillation and/or mechanical valves.

Helpful resources

An update of consensus guidelines for warfarin reversal

Huyen A Tran, Sanjeev D Chunilal, Paul L Harper, Huy Tran, Erica M Wood and Alex S Gallus, on behalf of the Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis. Med J Aust 2013; 198 (4): 198-199. DOI: 10.5694/mja12.10614. Abstract available from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23451962>

Related Podcasts

- [Transfusion reactions](#)
- [Febrile neutropaenia](#)
- [Anticoagulation 1: Warfarin](#)
- [Anticoagulation 2: Heparin](#)
- [Anticoagulation 3: New oral anticoagulants](#)
- [An approach to anaemia](#)
- [An approach to the management of bleeding disorders](#)
- [Thrombosis and Thrombophilia](#)
- [Haematological problems in obstetric patients](#)
- [Thrombocytopenia](#)

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