



**Recommendations for the Duration of Anticoagulant Therapy for Patients with DVT\***

Characteristics of Patient†	Risk of Recurrence in the Year After Discontinuation (%)	Duration of Therapy
Major transient risk factor	3	3 months
Minor risk factor; no thrombophilia	<10 if risk factor avoided >10 if risk factor persistent	6 months Until factor resolves
Idiopathic event; no thrombophilia or low-risk thrombophilia	<10	6 months‡
Idiopathic event; high-risk thrombophilia	>10	Indefinite
More than one idiopathic event	>10	Indefinite
Cancer; other ongoing risk factor	>10	Indefinite

† Examples of major transient risk factors are major surgery, a major medical illness, and leg casting. Examples of minor transient risk factors are the use of an oral contraceptive and hormone-replacement therapy. Examples of low-risk thrombophilias are heterozygosity for the factor V Leiden and G20210A prothrombin-gene mutations. Examples of high-risk thrombophilia are antithrombin, protein C, and protein S deficiencies; homozygosity for the factor V Leiden or prothrombin-gene mutation or heterozygosity for both; and the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies.

‡ Therapy may be prolonged if the patient prefers to prolong it, if the risk of bleeding is low, or if D-dimer level is elevated 1 month after discontinuation of treatment.

Table from *Physicians Information and Education Resource (PIER)*, Deep Venous Thrombosis module.