

1 **Title: Clinical and Laboratory characteristics of patients with COVID-19 Infection and**  
2 **Deep Venous Thrombosis**

3 **Short Title: Deep Venous Thrombosis in COVID-19 Patients.**

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8 Conclusion)

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5 **ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS:**

6 **Type of Research:** Single Center, Retrospective, Non-Randomized Cohort study.

7 **Key Findings:** Seventy-one COVID-19 patients had 107 venous duplex examination studies.

8 Presence of DVT was noted in 37 % of examinations. Majority of those who experienced DVT  
9 were male (67%) with proximal DVT and had a significantly elevated mean d-dimer (5447  
10 ng/ml), Alkaline Phosphatase (Alk Po4, 110 IU/L). A d-dimer cutoff 2450 ng/ml provided a 70%  
11 and 59.5% sensitivity and specificity.

12 **Take home Message:** A model for calculating the probability of DVT in patients with severe  
13 COVID-19 can be developed that may help identify risk for DVT.

14 Based on our results, patients may need a higher dose of anticoagulation therapy as most of our  
15 patients diagnosed with DVT while on anticoagulation.

16 **Table of Contents Summary:**

17 Single Center, retrospective, non-randomized study investigating the relationship of COVID-19  
18 and deep venous thrombosis (DVT). Seventy-one COVID-19 patients had 107 venous duplex  
19 examination studies with DVT noted in 37% of the examinations. The majority were male (67%)

1 with elevated d-dimer (mean,5447 ng/ml). Males with severe infection were at highest risk of  
2 developing DVT. A multivariable model can predict DVT risk.

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11 **Abstract:**

12 **Objective:** Early reports suggest that patients with COVID-19 infection carry a significant risk  
13 of altered coagulation with an increased risk for venous thromboembolic events. This report  
14 investigates the relationship of significant COVID-19 infection and deep venous thrombosis  
15 (DVT) as reflected in the patient clinical/laboratory characteristics.

16 **Methods:** We reviewed demographics, clinical presentation, laboratory/radiological evaluations,  
17 results of venous duplex imaging and mortality of COVID-19 positive patients (18-89 years)  
18 admitted to the Indiana University Academic Health Center. Using oxygen saturation,  
19 radiological findings and need for advanced respiratory therapies; patients were classified into

1 mild, moderate or severe categories of COVID-19 infection. Descriptive analysis was performed  
2 using univariate and bivariate Fisher's exact and Wilcoxon rank-sum tests to examine the  
3 distribution of patient characteristics and compare the DVT outcomes. A multivariable logistic  
4 regression model was used to estimate the Adjusted Odds Ratio of experiencing DVT while a  
5 Receiver Operating Curve (ROC) analysis to identify the optimal cutoff for d-dimer to predict  
6 DVT in this COVID-19 cohort. Time to the diagnosis of DVT from admission was analyzed  
7 using log-rank test and Kaplan Meier plots.

8 **Results:** Our study included 71 unique COVID-19 positive patients (mean age 61 years)  
9 categorized as having 3% mild, 14% moderate and 83% severe infection and evaluated with 107  
10 venous duplex studies. DVT was identified in 47.8% of patients (37% examinations) at an  
11 average of 5.9 days post admission. Patients with DVT were predominantly male (67%,  $p$   
12 =0.032) with proximal venous involvement. (29% upper and 39% in the lower extremities with  
13 55% of the latter demonstrating bilateral involvement). Patients with DVT had a significantly  
14 higher mean d-dimer of 5447 ng/ml (SD 7032,  $p=0.0101$ ), and Alkaline Phosphatase (Alk Po4)  
15 of 110 IU/L ( $p=0.0095$ ) than those without DVT. On multivariable analysis, elevated d-dimer  
16 ( $p=0.038$ ) & Alk Po4 ( $p=0.021$ ) were associated with risk for DVT while age, gender, elevated  
17 CRP and ferritin levels were not. ROC analysis suggests an optimal d-dimer value of 2450 ng/ml  
18 cutoff with 70% sensitivity, 59.5% specificity, and 61% positive and 68.8% negative predictive  
19 values.

20 **Conclusion:** This study suggests that males with severe COVID-19 infection requiring  
21 hospitalization are at highest risk for developing DVT. Elevated d-dimers, Alk Po4 along with  
22 our multivariable model can alert the clinician to the increased risk of DVT requiring early  
23 evaluation and aggressive treatment

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4 **Key Words:** COVID-19, Venous Disease, Deep Venous Thrombosis, Hypercoagulable State,  
5 Anticoagulation, d-dimer

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**3 Introduction:**

4 SARS-COV2 otherwise also known as COVID-19 is an infection due to a Novel Corona Virus-  
5 19. COVID-19 can present in mild, moderate or severe forms <sup>1,2</sup>. Patients who are admitted to  
6 either an inpatient facility or to an intensive care unit tend to have moderate to severe symptoms  
7 with shortness of breath progressing to pneumonia requiring supportive respiratory therapy with  
8 or without the need for multi organ supportive therapy <sup>3</sup>. In a small number of patients, COVID-  
9 19 infection leads to cytokine surge, endothelial dysfunction with an increase in acute phase  
10 reactants and inflammatory markers resulting in coagulopathy. Increases in d-Dimer, fibrinogen,  
11 C-reactive protein and ferritin levels indicate the combination of a prothrombotic and hyper-  
12 inflammatory state that may contribute to COVID-19 associated severity of illness, morbidity  
13 and mortality <sup>4-7</sup>

14 The objective of our report is to examine the select group of patients who were admitted to  
15 hospital with COVID-19 infection and had venous duplex ultrasonography imaging. We report  
16 their characteristics in the context of clinical severity and laboratory results. This report  
17 examines mortality outcome and comparisons between the two cohorts of patients who were  
18 positive for COVID-19 but differed in the presence or absence of DVT.

19 **Methods:** The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The study  
20 was granted expedited review status by Indiana University School of Medicine -Institutional  
21 Review Board (IRB Protocol 2004249979).

**22 Study Cohort:**

1 All COVID-19 positive patients between age group of 18 to 89 years admitted to the Academic  
2 Health Center, Indiana University Health and who had a duplex examination of their venous  
3 system between March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were included in this study. These patients were  
4 admitted to either an inpatient or intensive care unit of the hospital depending on the level of the  
5 care required. Study patients were identified from In Record Time (In Record Time, LLC.  
6 Fenton, Michigan), our vascular lab database that records and maintains every non-invasive  
7 vascular imaging and interpretation in the facility. Appropriate annotation of COVID-19 status  
8 was made in the vascular database.

9 **Patient & Laboratory Characteristics** :Patient demographics consisted of age, gender, race,  
10 insurance status , body mass index (BMI), smoking status, renal function with need for renal  
11 replacement therapy, history of active or remote cancer, use of immune suppression medications,  
12 and history of any organ or hematopoietic transplantation were identified from patients records.  
13 Patients were classified as mild or moderate severity of infection depending on < or > 94%  
14 Oxygen Saturation respectively. Severe category patients had in addition respiratory rate of >30,  
15 PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 300 mmHg or need for Mechanical Ventilation. Using medications charted in  
16 Cerner, the hospital electronic medical records, documentation was made of the use of  
17 angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin Receptor blockers (ARB), use  
18 and type of anticoagulation, hydroxychloroquine, antiviral medications per hospital protocol (  
19 Remdesivir, Lopinavir, Ritonavir) used in treatment. Laboratory variables in terms of serum  
20 hemoglobin in gm% (Hb%), hematocrit (Hct), C-reactive protein in mg/L (CRP), erythrocyte  
21 sedimentation rate mm/Hour (ESR), Platelet (Plt) per microliter, serum fibrinogen levels in  
22 mg/dl (fibrinogen), d-dimer in ng/ml, renal function test with blood Urea nitrogen (BUN), serum  
23 creatinine in mg/dl, liver function test results with aspartate aminotransferase (AST) Units/L ,

1 alanine aminotransferase (ALT Units/L), alkaline phosphatase (Alk Po4 IU/L), serum ferritin in  
2 ng/ml, serum. Procalcitonin in ng/ml, and presence or absence of any abnormality on  
3 electrocardiography (EKG) were recorded. For the purposes of reporting the severity of COVID-  
4 19 infection and medication usage, they were recorded either less than or equal to 48 hours from  
5 the day of the venous duplex examination.

6 **Venous Duplex Examinations:** All patients had either upper and/or lower extremity venous  
7 duplex ultrasonography at the request of the treating physicians. Patients had imaging of either  
8 one or all four extremities. Patients were then categorized into two groups depending on the  
9 status of the venous duplex examination as either positive or negative for deep venous  
10 thrombosis (DVT). Extent (proximal versus distal) as well as the location (superficial venous  
11 thrombosis (SVT) and/or DVT) of the venous thrombus was considered for reporting. Time to  
12 diagnosis of the venous thrombosis from the time of admission was recorded using the admission  
13 date. All examinations were carried out by registered vascular technologists and interpreted by  
14 attending physicians in accordance with the protocols suggested by the Intersocietal  
15 Accreditation Commission (IAC)

16 **Statistical Analysis:** All the above-mentioned variables including the venous duplex  
17 examination results were entered into the REDCap database for analysis. REDCap ( Research  
18 Electronic Data Capture ) is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)  
19 compliant , highly secure and intuitive tool designed by Vanderbilt University, USA used by the  
20 participating institutions in developing databases to capture data for clinical and translational  
21 research.<sup>8</sup> . Descriptive analysis was performed to examine the distribution of patient  
22 characteristics and DVT outcomes in the COVID-19 positive patients using frequency  
23 distribution for categorical variables and mean (standard deviation, SD) and median (inter-



1 quartile range IQR) for continuous variables. Bivariate analyses were conducted to investigate  
2 the socio-demographic, clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients with COVID-19  
3 infection and the incidence of DVT using Fisher's exact test and Wilcoxon rank-sum test for  
4 categorical and continuous variables, respectively. Multivariable logistic regression was used to  
5 examine the Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) of DVT with 95% Confidence intervals (CI) of the  
6 AOR among COVID patients. The coefficients from the multivariable logistic model were used  
7 to define an equation to obtain the probability of developing DVT in male and female patients  
8 separately. Mathematically, the logistic regression model can be presented as  $\log \frac{p(x)}{1-p(x)} = \beta_0 +$   
9  $x \cdot \beta$ , which can be used to obtain probability or risk that an outcome=1 by using the formula  
10  $\frac{\exp(\beta_0+x \cdot \beta)}{1+\exp(\beta_0+x \cdot \beta)}$ , where exp is the natural exponential function,  $\beta$  is the logistic regression  
11 coefficient and x is the covariate in the model.. All variables with  $p < 0.20$  in the bivariate analysis  
12 and those with  $p > 0.20$  ( age, S.ferritin ) otherwise considered clinically important were included  
13 in multivariable analysis Multicollinearity was assessed and any potential variables with variance  
14 inflation greater than 10 were excluded from the multivariable modeling. The multivariable  
15 model included gender, age, d-dimer, CRP, ferritin, and Alk Po4. Time to diagnosis of DVT  
16 from admission was analyzed using log-rank test to determine the time-to-event differences  
17 between different severity levels of COVID-19 and was displayed using Kaplan Meier plots.  
18 Receiver Operating Curve (ROC) analysis for d-dimer as a predictor of DVT was done to report  
19 the Area Under the Curve (AUC). Youden Index was used to identify the optimal cutoff for the  
20 d-dimer that would distinguish between DVT positive and DVT negative cases. Sensitivity,  
21 specificity, positive predictive value (PPV) and negative predictive values (NPV) were reported  
22 for different levels of the cutoff based on an increment of 500 ng/ml. All analyses were  
23 performed at 0.05 level of significance using Stata SE/14.2 (StataCorp, L.P., and College Station,

1 TX).

2 **Results:** This study includes 71 unique COVID-19 positive patients, who underwent 107 venous  
3 duplex examinations between March 15<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Academic Health Center,  
4 Indiana University School of Medicine (IU-AHC). Mean age of the cohort were 61 years ( $\pm$   
5 14.56) with a majority male (54%) and African American patients (61%). Forty two percent of  
6 our patients were either ex-smokers or active smokers at the time of admission. Only 10% of the  
7 patients were uninsured. The majority of our patients were categorized into severe COVID-19  
8 infections (83%) while 17% were with moderate (14%) to mild (2.8%) infections. Patient's  
9 demographics, comorbidities, use of medications was compared between the two patient groups  
10 consisting of those with or without any form of thrombotic event in the venous system. Among  
11 the 34 patients (48%) who had a positive venous duplex examination, we observed 23 patients  
12 were males (68%) ( $p= 0.032$ ) and race was not found to be significant ( $p=0.329$ ) for venous  
13 thrombotic events. Additional results are shown in **Table 1**.

14 Bi-variate analysis (**Online table 1**) evaluating the use of ACE ( $p= 0.665$ ), ARB ( $p=0.599$ ),  
15 hydroxychloroquine ( $p>0.99$ ), hypoglycemic agents ( $p=0.315$ ), statins ( $p >0.99$ ) and antiviral  
16 medications ( $p=0.479$ ) demonstrated no difference between groups. The majority of patients  
17 (99%) were on anticoagulation (84% on prophylactic and 16% on therapeutic dose) with either  
18 Unfractionated Heparin (UFH) or Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) at the time of DVT  
19 diagnosis. In the cohort of patients with DVT, laboratory levels of d-dimers ( $p=0.010$ ), Alk Po4  
20 ( $p=0.009$ ) were found to be abnormally elevated and statistically significant while CRP  
21 ( $p=0.077$ ) , AST ( $p=0.060$ ) trended towards significance on bivariate analysis between those  
22 with and without DVT. **Table 2** provides additional information on laboratory parameters in  
23 patients with and without DVT.

1 There were no significant differences identified in abnormal chest x rays ( $p>0.99$ ) in those  
2 patients (N=68) where the information was available. EKG changes with QT prolongation was  
3 see in 6 patients with no differences between the groups with and without DVT ( $p >0.99$ , 3  
4 patients in each group).

5 Positive findings on the venous duplex examination for DVT were found in 37% (N=40)  
6 examinations. Patients had venous thrombotic events, either in isolation or in combination with a  
7 proximal or distal venous system in the upper and/or lower extremities. The majority of the  
8 venous duplex examinations included an evaluation of the lower extremities (70/107 exams).  
9 Fifty five percent of all the positive lower extremity examinations had a positive finding for  
10 venous thrombotic event in both lower extremities while 29% of the upper extremity venous  
11 examinations had a positive finding in both upper extremities. Proximal venous thrombosis was  
12 found in 39% of lower extremity examinations in the femoral and popliteal veins with 29% of  
13 upper extremity examinations having venous thrombosis in the proximal venous system  
14 including one or more of the brachial, axillary and subclavian veins. Isolated SVT was found in  
15 17.8% (N=19) examinations. SVT was most frequently found in the upper extremities, 54% of  
16 patients, and in association with proximal deep venous thrombosis. Details of venous thrombotic  
17 events are shown in **Online table 2**. There was no statistical difference in the probability of  
18 being diagnosed with DVT among moderate and severe COVID-19 cases ( $p=0.197$ ), however  
19 the time to event analysis by severity of COVID-19 symptoms using Kaplan Meier plot shows  
20 **(Figure: 1)** that the likelihood of diagnosis of DVT for severe category of COVID-19 patients  
21 was higher and trending towards significance as was seen in the univariate Cox regression  
22 ( $HR=2.13$ , 95% CI: 0.64, 7.08) than that for mild to moderate patients. On an average, the days  
23 from admission to the diagnosis of DVT was 10.4 days for mild/moderate and 6.83 days for

1 severe COVID-19 patients. This difference was not statistically significant as analyzed by  
2 Wilcoxon rank sum test (p-value=0.9416).

3 Based on the (ROC) analysis (**Figure:2A**), the sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of d-  
4 dimers at 500 ng/ml units' intervals was analyzed and obtained an optimal cutoff of 2450 ng/ml.  
5 This cutoff was also validated using Youden Index after ROC analysis. **Table 3** shows d-dimer  
6 levels in increments of 500 ng/ml along with their specificity %, sensitivity %, PPV % and NPV  
7 %. At 2450 ng/ml, these values are 70.6%, 59.5%, 61.5% and 68.8% respectively

8 Our multivariable logistic regression model (**Figure:2B**) for predicting the odds of DVT gave us  
9 an AUC of 0.8214 which indicates that the model has a good predictive ability<sup>11</sup> and potential of  
10 clinical utility to discriminate DVT cases from non-DVT cases among COVID-19 patients.

11 **Table 4** shows patient and laboratory characteristics with the adjusted odds ratio predicting their  
12 association with DVT amongst COVID-19 patients. Elevated d-dimers (p=0.038) and Alk Po4  
13 (p=0.021) were significantly associated with the risk of diagnosing DVT. Based on this model,  
14 we propose equations for the probability of DVT occurrences in COVID-19 positive patients  
15 among male and female cases is as shown below.

16 Probability for DVT among female COVID-19 positive patients can be predicted by using

$$\Pr(DVT = 1) = \frac{e^{(-2.672+0.0002*ddimer-0.0013*CRP+0.0004*Ferritin+0.0269*AlkPO4-0.0042*Age-1.2947)}}{1 + e^{(-2.672+0.0002*ddimer-0.0013*CRP+0.0004*Ferritin+0.0269*AlkPO4-0.0042*Age-1.2947)}}$$

17 Similarly, for male COVID-19 positive patients the probability for DVT can be predicted by  
18 using

$$\Pr(DVT = 1) = \frac{e^{(-2.672+0.0002*ddimer-0.0013*CRP+0.0004*Ferritin+0.0269*AlkPO4-0.0042*Age)}}{1 + e^{(-2.672+0.0002*ddimer-0.0013*CRP+0.0004*Ferritin+0.0269*AlkPO4-0.0042*Age)}}$$

1 Here,  $e$  represents the natural exponential function,  $-2.672$  is a constant in the logistic regression,  
2 and  $0.0002$ ,  $-0.0013$ ,  $0.0004$ ,  $0.0269$ ,  $-0.0042$ , and  $-1.2947$  are the coefficients respectively for  
3 the variables d-dimer, CRP, Ferritin, AlkPO<sub>4</sub>, Age and Female.

4 Mechanical ventilation were required in 77.5% patients in the entire cohort with 3 patients  
5 required ECMO. There were no differences in the use of either mechanical ventilation or ECMO  
6 in patients with and without DVT.

7 In this entire cohort, ten deaths (14%) occurred during the follow-up period of  $13.4 \pm 7.1$  days.  
8 All deaths were related to progressive sepsis with multi-organ dysfunction. The analysis of  
9 survival comparing the mild/moderate disease and severe disease patients did not reach statistical  
10 significance.

11 **Discussion:** At the time of this manuscript the United States accounted for both the highest  
12 number of patients as well as fatalities due to COVID-19 infections in the world We had a  
13 mortality of 14 % in our cohort which is similar to those reported for all COVID-19 related  
14 admissions to Intensive care units requiring advanced respiratory therapies and supportive care.<sup>9-</sup>  
15 <sup>12</sup> . Our results demonstrate similar observations with significant number of male COVID-19  
16 positive patients with others reporting a high BMI as an additional risk.<sup>13,14</sup> Similar to published  
17 reports our cohort is composed of approximately 60% African American patients.<sup>15</sup>

18 Similar to our results, venous thromboembolism (VTE) in critically ill patients with COVID-19  
19 reportedly ranges from 25-31%.<sup>16-18</sup> Patients with severe and fatal COVID-19 are in a  
20 prothrombotic and hyper-inflammatory state with reportedly higher d-dimer levels<sup>4-6,18,21-23</sup> .

21 Given the varying degrees of sensitivity ( 80-100% ) , specificity ( 23-63% ) d-dimer levels are  
22 not advised as a single definitive test for diagnosis<sup>19-20</sup> for VTE.Tang et al defined the high risk

1 population as having a D-dimer elevation more than six times the upper limit of normal and  
2 Sepsis Induced Coagulopathy (SIC) score of more than or equal to 4.<sup>16</sup> In our study, the  
3 sensitivity of d-dimer of 2450g/ml was approximately 70% and specificity was approximately  
4 60% and reflect the limitations of using d-dimer as a stand-alone trigger for treatment. It also  
5 must be noted that 99% of our patients were on anticoagulation (84% on prophylactic and 16%  
6 on therapeutic dose) at the time of diagnosis. Given the high percentage of patients who were  
7 diagnosed with DVT while on prophylactic anticoagulation, one might postulate that these  
8 patients need full anticoagulation to be reliably protected against experiencing DVT.

9 Mechanisms related to such high levels of d-dimer as well as the risk of DVT may be related to  
10 a cytokine surge, the upregulation of hypoxia induced transcription pathways<sup>16</sup>, or potentially  
11 the use of continuous positive airway pressure (c-PAP) ventilator, thought to compress  
12 superficial or deep vessels of the upper limbs which might lead to thrombosis<sup>24</sup>. Our study  
13 provides no insights into the underlying pathophysiology.

14  
15 The presence of liver abnormalities have been observed in the COVID population potentially due  
16 to various pathophysiological pathways.<sup>25</sup> Worsening transaminases such as, Alk-Po4 a sign of  
17 significant liver disease, is associated with heightened risk of VTE. based on our analysis. Cui et  
18 al<sup>17</sup> has suggested worsening transaminases is related to worse patient outcomes in COVID-19.  
19 Chen et al<sup>26</sup> similarly suggest an aspartate aminotransferase >40U/liter (HR: 2.2, 95% CI: 1.1-  
20 6.73) was an independent risk factor associated with fatal outcome.

21 Based on our multivariable analysis, d-dimer along with C- reactive protein, alkaline  
22 phosphatase, ferritin levels and gender would be helpful to assess the probability of underlying  
23 deep venous thrombosis. An absolute level of D dimer cannot be used to initiate a high dose

1 anticoagulation in COVID-19 positive patients, we recommend calculating the probability of  
2 venous thromboembolism in these patients and then make decisions based on clinical needs of  
3 the patient. This model should help guide further treatment decisions. A larger cohort is needed  
4 to validate our observations.

5 Similar to sepsis induced coagulopathy, there are reports that suggest survival benefit in COVID-  
6 19 patients with pneumonia and DVT when treated with anticoagulation <sup>16,26</sup>. Available  
7 algorithms take into consideration Well's pretest probability score <sup>28,29</sup> advising either  
8 prophylaxis, thrombostabilizing protocol, or therapeutic anticoagulation for DVT and PE.  
9 However, given the limitations <sup>30-31</sup> with varying degrees of sensitivity, specificity as well as age  
10 related challenges and ability to predict only the proximal venous thrombosis, it remains to be  
11 seen if the Well's score can be used to advise anticoagulation strategies for COVID-19 patients.  
12 To overcome some of these limitations age adjusted d-dimer along with Well's probability score  
13 <sup>32</sup> has been advised.

14 Based on initial observations, which forms the basis for this report, a high dose anticoagulant  
15 regimen was advised for DVT prophylaxis (Online **table 3**) in our health facility for ICU  
16 COVID-19 patients. Since both upper and lower extremities are often involved with DVT in our  
17 cohort, there appears to be little role for IVC filters in this patient population. Relatively low  
18 sensitivity of D-dimer amidst high DVT prevalence warrants consideration of empiric  
19 anticoagulation on admission. If the probability score is high based on our multivariate model,  
20 we postulate that patients will benefit a therapeutic dose to offer protection against DVT. Our  
21 observations are similar to Obi et al indicating H1N1 ARDS patients had 23.3-fold higher risk  
22 for pulmonary embolism and 17.9-fold increased risk for VTE. This led to authors concluding

1 empirical systemic heparin anticoagulation in this cohort of patients significantly reduced VTE  
2 incidence without increased hemorrhagic complications<sup>33</sup>

3 Given the concerns for acquiring COVID-19 infection and to protect our health care providers,  
4 prudent and judicious use of the vascular lab resources is critical. Since anticoagulation will be  
5 provided no matter where the DVT is found, termination of extensive testing seems warranted  
6 when a major proximal DVT is found. In addition to the concerns expressed by Obi et al<sup>28</sup> we  
7 believe that an algorithm of who is at most risk based on gender and other factors from our  
8 multivariate model might eventually provide an answer on whom to study.

9 This report focuses on patients in the moderate to severe categories of COVID-19 infection  
10 requiring hospital admission. This study adds to the existing body of literature in that male  
11 patients are at highest risk for complications. The study has strengths in the fact that all patients  
12 included in the study had a venous duplex ultrasonography to provide confirmation of DVT. We  
13 have identified variables beyond those described to predict the probability of DVT in patients  
14 with COVID-19 infection. Besides a small sample size, weakness of the study is very similar to  
15 those inherent to any single center retrospective series and, limited by inherent biases related to  
16 patient selection, investigation, as well as treatments provided. The multivariable model  
17 proposed in this manuscript needs further validation and research. In addition, the study has also  
18 its weakness as we did not perform evaluations for the pulmonary embolism or investigating for  
19 the caval or iliac venous thrombosis.

20

21

22 **Conclusions:**



1 Male gender and patients admitted with severe category of COVID-19 infections are at high risk  
2 for DVT. Elevated d-dimer and Alk Po4 levels have the ability to predict DVT in our model.  
3 Our novel multivariate predictive model should provide guidance, as we consider high dose  
4 empiric anticoagulation in this high risk COVID-19 patients. To limit the risk of exposure to  
5 healthcare workers considerations should be given in judicious ordering of vascular lab imaging.

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Tables:

Table 1 : Patient Characteristics and bivariate relationship with DVT

Characteristics	In Sample (n=71)	DVT status		p-value
		Negative (n=37)	Positive (n=34)	
Age (n=71)				0.7478
Mean (SD)	61.06 (14.56)	61.11 (13.6)	61 (15.74)	
Median (IQR)	63 (20)	63 (14)	65 (20)	
Gender				0.032
Male	38 (54%)	15 ((41%)	23 (68%)	
Female	33 (46%)	22 (59%)	11 (32%)	
Race				0.329
Whites	22 (31%)	13 (35%)	9 ((27%)	
AA	43 (61%)	23 (62%)	20 (61%)	
Others	5 (7%)	1 (3%)	4 (12%)	
Missing	1 (1%)			
Smoking Status				0.934
Current Smokers	6 (8%)	3 (8%)	3 (10%)	
Former Smokers	24 (34%)	14 (38%)	10 ((32%)	
Never Smokers	38 (54%)	20 (54%)	18 (58%)	
Missing	3(4%)			
Active Cancer				>0.99
No	65 (92%)	35 (95%)	30 (94%)	
Yes	4 (6%)	2 (5%)	2 (6%)	
Missing	2 (2%)			
Remote Cancer				>0.99
No	64 (90%)	34 (92%)	30 (94%)	
Yes	5 ((7%)	3 (8%)	2 (6%)	
Missing	2 (3%)			
Insurance				0.442
Medicare	33 (46%)	19 (51%)	14 (41%)	
Medicaid	7 (10%)	5 (14%)	2 (6%)	
Private	22 (31%)	10 (27%)	12 (35%)	
Others	2 (3%)	0 (0)	2 (6%)	
Uninsured	7 (10%)	3 (8%)	4 (12%)	
CKD				0.088
No	55 (78%)	26 (70%)	29 (88%)	
Yes	15 (21%)	11 (30%)	4 (12%)	
Missing	1 (1%)			

RRT (Renal Replacement therapy)				0.479
No	70 (99%)	37 (100)	33 (97%)	
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0)	1 (3%)	
				0.152
Immune Sup Med				>0.99
No	63	33 (89%)	30 (91%)	
Yes	7	4 (11%)	3 (9%)	
Missing	1			
HTN				0.795
No	21 (30%)	10 (27%)	11 (32%)	
Yes	50 (70%)	27 (73%)	23 (68%)	
CAD				>0.99
No	54 (76%)	28 (76%)	26 (76%)	
Yes	17 (24%)	9 (24%)	8 (24%)	
Diabetes				0.628
No	43 (61%)	21 (57%)	22 (65%)	
Yes	28 (39%)	16 (43%)	12 (35%)	
Hyperlipidemia				0.232
No	35 (49%)	21 (58%)	14 (42%)	
Yes	34 (48%)	15 (42%)	19 (58%)	
Missing	2 (3%)			
COPD				>0.99
No	64 (90%)	33 (89%)	31 (91%)	
Yes	7 (10%)	4 (11%)	3 (9%)	
BMI (n=70)				0.4727
Mean (SD)	33.62 (8.35)	34.61 (9.12)	32.54 (7.4)	
Median (IQR)	33 (10.2)	33 (12.9)	31 (8.9)	
COVID Severity				0.867
Mild	2 (3%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	
Moderate	10 (14%)	6 (16%)	4 (12%)	
Severe	59 (83%)	30 (81%)	29 (85%)	

Table 2: Bivariate Analysis of Lab Parameters comparing patients with and without Deep venous Thrombosis

Lab Parameters (In Sample)	Results Mean (SD)	DVT Negative Mean (SD)	DVT Positive Mean (SD)	P Value
Hgb gm% (n=71)	10.72 (1.99)	10.47 (1.94)	11 (2.05)	0.4038
HCT (n=71)	32.48 (5.99)	31.78 (5.8)	33.25 (6.18)	0.4878
d-dimer ng/ml (n=67)	3941.21 (5240.36)	2644.03 (2378.77)	5447.61 (7032.01)	0.0101
Fibrinogen mg/dl (n=41)	664.66 (198.69)	655.57 (220.84)	676.28 (171.8)	0.8422
Platelets /microlit (n=71)	282.76 (98.91)	290.73 (107.67)	274.09 (89.2)	0.5313
CRP mg/L(n=67)	18.26 (17.35)	17.54 (21.83)	19.1 (10.26)	0.0772
ESR (n=11)	80.82 (25.33)	83 (31.84)	79 (21.51)	0.9361
Ferritin ng/ml (n=65)	1038.73 (1191.61)	820.83 (1001.94)	1277.7 (1346.15)	0.1295
Procalcitonin ng/ml (n=29)	2.18 (5.92)	2.38 (7.7)	1.94 (2.72)	0.1873
BUN mg/dl (n=70)	32.86 (25.95)	35.94 (28.67)	29.59 (22.7)	0.2841
Serum Creatinine mg/dl(n=70)	1.41 (1.65)	1.57 (1.91)	1.25 (1.32)	0.3222
Albumin mg/dl (n=68)	2.91 (0.58)	2.9 (0.44)	2.91 (0.71)	0.4015
AST Units /L (n=68)	59.16 (47.49)	47.72 (36.17)	72.03 (55.44)	0.0604
ALT Units/L (n=68)	50.49 (40.31)	45.25 (34.69)	56.38 (45.67)	0.3828
Alkaline PO4 IU/L(n=68)	89.56 (59.67)	71.39 (24.2)	110 (78.86)	0.0095

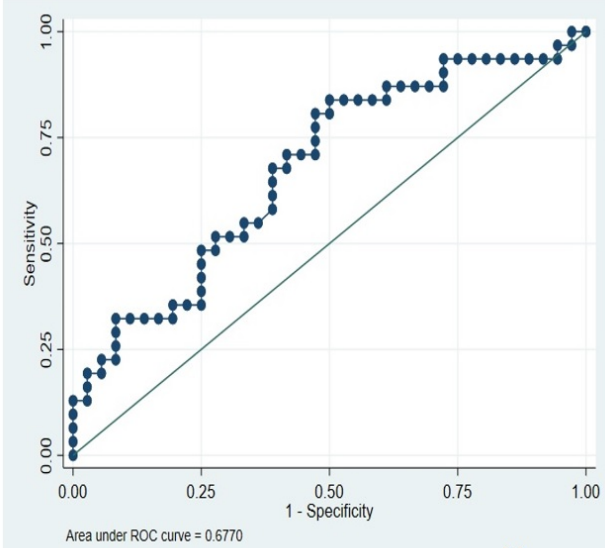


Table 3: Optimal cutoff of d-dimer values to predict DVT in patients with COVID-19 infection

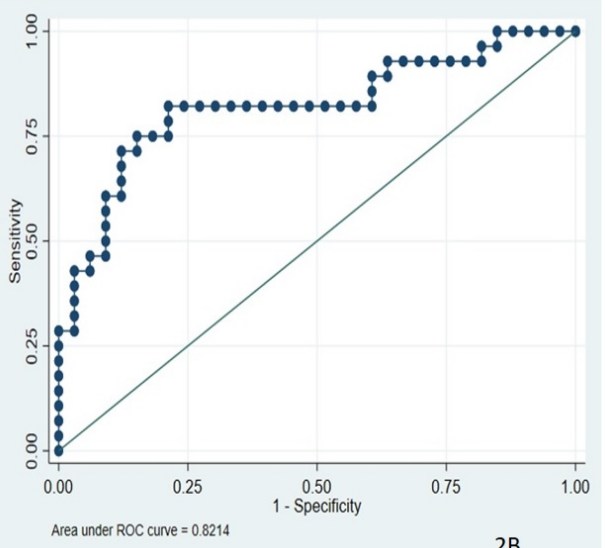
d-dimer ng/ml Cutoff	Prevalence, %	AUC	Sensitivity, %	Specificity, %	PPV, %	NPV, %
1450	47.9	0.63	85.3	40.5	56.9	75
1950	47.9	0.64	76.5	51.4	59.1	70.4
2450*	47.9	0.65	70.6	59.5	61.5	68.8
2950	47.9	0.6	58.8	62.2	58.8	62.2
3450	47.9	0.63	55.9	70.3	63.3	63.4
3950	47.9	0.59	44.1	73	60	58.7
*Optimal cutoff based on Youden Index for d-dimer to predict DVT						

Table 4 : Multivariable Analysis of DVT among COVID positive patients

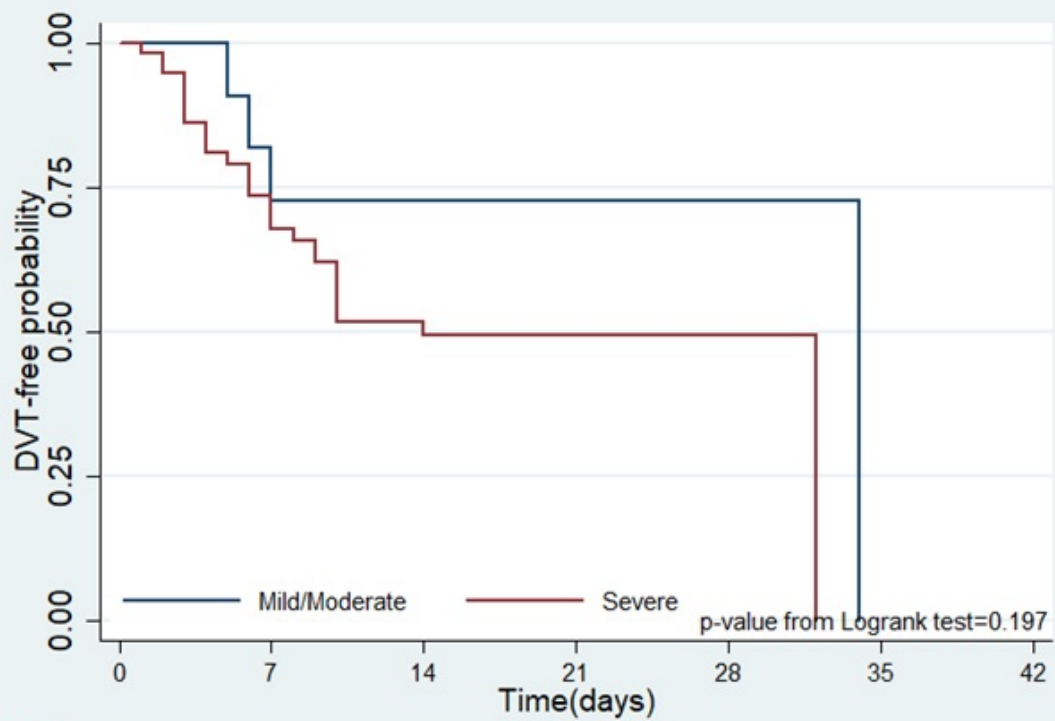
Characteristics	Adj. Odds Ratio	95% CI		p-value
d-dimer	1.000243	1.000014	1.000472	0.038
CRP	0.9987068	0.9600632	1.038906	0.949
ferritin	1.000353	0.999747	1.000959	0.254
alkpo4	1.027308	1.003987	1.05117	0.021
Age	0.9958539	0.9517951	1.041952	0.857
Female	0.2739775	0.0701369	1.070246	0.063



2A



2B



Number (at risk)

Mild/Moderate	11	9	2	1	1	0	0
Severe	58	39	22	10	2	0	0

Online Table 1 : Bivariate Analysis of patient's medications and status of deep venous thrombosis

Medications	In sample (N=71)	DVT Negative (N=37)	DVT Positive (N=34)	P Value
Aspirin				0.315
No	47 (66.2)	22 (59.46)	25 (73.53)	
Yes	24 (33.8)	15 (40.54)	9 (26.47)	
ACE				0.665
No	66 (92.96)	35 (94.59)	31 (91.18)	
Yes	5 (7.04)	2 (5.41)	3 (8.82)	
ARB				0.599
No	67 (94.37)	36 (97.3)	31 (93.94)	
Yes	3 (4.23)	1 (2.7)	2 (6.06)	
Missing	1 (1.41)			
Hydroxychloroquine				>0.99
No	28 (39.44)	15 (40.54)	13 (38.24)	
Yes	43 (60.56)	22 (59.46)	21 (61.76)	
Hypoglycemics				0.315
No	46 (64.79)	22 (59.46)	24 (72.73)	
Yes	24 (33.8)	15 (40.54)	9 (27.27)	
Missing	1 (1.41)			
Statins				>0.99
No	50 (70.42)	26 (70.27)	24 (70.59)	
Yes	21 (29.58)	11 (29.73)	10 (29.41)	
Antiviral Medications				0.479
No	61 (85.92)	30 (83.33)	31 (91.18)	
Yes	9 (12.68)	6 (16.67)	3 (8.82)	
Missing	1 (1.41)			
Anticoagulation Status at the time of Diagnosis				>0.99
No	1 (1.41)	1 (2.7)	0 (0)	
Yes	70 (98.59)	36 (97.3)	34 (100)	
If Yes, Types				0.515
Therapeutic	11 (15.71)	7 (19.44)	4 (11.76)	
Prophylactic	59 (84.29)	29 (80.56)	30 (88.24)	

Online Table 2: Description of location and extent of venous thrombotic events

Location and Extent of Venous Thrombosis (N=107 Examinations: 70 Lower extremity+37 Upper extremity )	% Positive Studies
Total number of venous thrombotic events	55% (N=59 )
Total number of Deep venous thrombosis (DVT)	37.38% (N=40)
Total number of isolated Superficial venous Thrombosis	17.75% ( N=19 )
Bilateral Lower extremity DVT (of lower extremity examinations)	55%
Bilateral Upper extremity DVT ( of upper extremity examinations)	29%
% Positive Proximal DVT in lower extremity examinations ( Femoral , Popliteal Veins)	39%
% Positive Proximal DVT in upper extremity examinations ( Axillary, Subclavian , Jugular veins)	29%

Online table 3 : Indiana University –Academic Health Center Protocol for Prophylactic dosing of anticoagulation in severe COVID-19 infections .

Creatinine Clearance	Weight - < 119kg	Weight 120-150kg	Weight > 150kg
>30ml/min	Enoxaparin 30mg Q12H	Enoxaparin 40mgQ12H	Enoxaparin 60mg Q12H
< 30ml/min, End stage renal disease	Heparin 5000Q8H	Heparin 7500Q8H	Heparin 7500Q8H

1 Figure Legends :

2 Figure 1: Time to event analysis for determining DVT-free probability using log rank test and

3 KM plot

4 Figure 2A: Receiver Operating Curve for the model predicting DVT using d-dimer

5 2B: Receiver Operating Curve for the multivariable model predicting DVT

6 Table Legends :

7 Table 1 : Patient Characteristics and bivariate relationship with DVT

8 Online Table 1: Bivariate Analysis of patient's medications and status of deep venous

9 thrombosis

10 Table 2: Bivariate Analysis of Lab Parameters comparing patients with and without Deep venous

11 Thrombosis (\* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$  )

12 Table 3 : Optimal cutoff of d-dimer values to predict DVT in patients with COVID-19 infection

13 Online Table 2 : Online Table 2: Description of location and extent of venous thrombotic events

14 Table 4: Multivariable Analysis of DVT among COVID positive patients

15 Online table 3 : Indiana University –Academic Health Center Protocol for Prophylactic dosing of

16 anticoagulation in severe COVID-19 infections

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