Pulmonary Embolism Diagnostics

In the realm of Emergency Medicine, the diagnosis and management of acute pulmonary embolism (PE) is crucial. For patients with chest pain or dyspnea, a comprehensive approach is essential. This page presents a flowchart for diagnosing PE, detailing initial assessments, diagnostic algorithms, and the evaluation of risk factors.

**Initial Orders**
- DVT with diff
- Basic metabolic panel
- Troponin

**Pulmonary Embolism Diagnostic Algorithm**

1. **Low probability**
   - Calculate PERC Score
   - Walk + 0

2. **High probability**
   - Calculate likelihood of PE
   - Calculate Wells score

3. **Order D-dimer**
   - May consider age-adjusted cut-off
   - Calc. Wells score
   - CTPA for high risk or PE, or V/Q scan

4. **Negative D-dimer**
   - No further diagnostic testing for PE

5. **Positive D-dimer**
   - Order CTPA or Venous

6. **Wells Score + 0**
   - No further diagnostic testing for PE

7. **Wells Score + 2.5**
   - Wells Score + 3.5

8. **Wells Score + 5**
   - Wells Score + 5

9. **CTPA for high risk or PE, or V/Q scan**

**References**


Most recent update: 12/22/2019
Department(s): Emergency Medicine