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Complete Blood Count (CBC)

A **CBC** is a test that the lab does from a sample of your blood. The **CBC** looks at 3 different types of cells:

1. White blood cells (WBC) fight infection. When WBC (also known as granulocytes) drops it is known as neutropenia.
2. Red Blood Cells (RBC) are the cells in your body that carry oxygen. When your RBCs or Hemoglobin (Hgb) are low it is called anemia.
3. Platelets (PLT) are the cells in your body that help your blood to clot. Cancer treatment can make your platelets drop and this is called thrombocytopenia.

How To Read a CBC

Each lab may have a different format for their CBC. The "Result" column will tell you what your results are. If the value is high or low it will be noted there. The "Test" tell you how each type of cell was measured. The "Reference Range" tells you what the normal range is. This may vary slightly from lab to lab and vary slightly for women, children and adolescents.

CBC Definitions

WBC (White Blood Cell): White blood cells are scavengers that are able to kill bacteria and other invaders. The white blood cell count includes the total number of all the white blood cells. *Granulocytes (GRAN %)* includes the most mature WBCs that fight infection.

RBC (Red Blood Cell): RBCs are mature red blood cells and are also known as erythrocytes. They are responsible for transporting oxygen in the blood.

HGB (Hemoglobin): Hemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.

HCT (Hematocrit): Hematocrit reflects the percentage of blood volume that is made up of red blood cells (erythrocytes).

MCV: Mean Corpuscular Volume measures the average volume or size of individual red blood cells.

MCH: Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin is the measure of hemoglobin content of red blood cells.

MCHC: Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentration is the measure of concentration of hemoglobin in the average red blood cell.

PLT: (Platelet Count) Platelets are an important blood cell need for clotting the blood. They help to stop bleeding by forming clots.

MPV: Mean Platelet Volume - describes the size of the platelets.

WBC Differential includes:

% GRANULOCYTES: Gives the percent of white blood cells that are neutrophils. Neutrophils also known as granulocytes fight bacterial infections. Normally they account for 35-81% of all white blood cells.

% LYMPHOCYTES: Normally make up 25-50% of white blood cells. There are two types of lymphocytes; T-cells and B-cells. Both are important for fighting infection.

% MONOCYTES: Make up 2-10% of white blood cells. They attack germs and signal the immune system when they find them.