

Complete Blood Count (CBC) with Differential

The complete blood count (CBC) is one of the most commonly performed tests because it is one of the most informative. CBC testing examines and reports on the status of your body's red and white blood cells and includes several indicators for various diseases and disorders including anemia and infections.

What is being tested in a CBC?

A CBC is a panel of tests that evaluates three types of cells that circulate in the blood, including the following:

Red blood cells: A CBC provides an evaluation of red blood cells, which transport oxygen throughout the body.

- Red blood cell count by counting the actual number of red blood cells in a person's body
- Hemoglobin measures the oxygen-carrying protein in the blood
- Hematocrit measures the percentage of a person's total blood volume that consists of red blood cells

White blood cells: A CBC provides an evaluation of white blood cells, which are part of the body's defense system to fight off infections and reduce inflammation.

- White blood cell count by counting the actual number of white blood cells in a person's body
- White blood cell differential identifies and counts the number of the five types of white blood cells

Platelets: A CBC provides an evaluation of platelets, which are cell fragments that are vital for blood clotting.

- Platelet count by counting the actual number of platelets in a person's body
- Mean platelet volume (MPV) calculates the average size of platelets
- Platelet distribution width (PDW) reflects how uniform platelets are in size

What are common symptoms for needing a CBC?

A CBC may be needed when a person has the following symptoms or conditions:

- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Infection
- Inflammation
- Bruising
- Bleeding
- Monitor a previously diagnosed disease

What should I do with my results?

It is always recommended you meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you. Your healthcare provider will review all of your test results and, combined with your health history, will be able to provide an accurate picture of your health status.

If your results were abnormal or out-of-range: Many conditions will result in increases or decreases in the cell populations. Some of these conditions may require treatment, while others will resolve on their own. As with any abnormal results, it is important that you discuss the results with your healthcare provider.

If your results were within normal range: If all of your results are within the normal range, you should consult with your healthcare provider about the need and frequency of further CBC testing. Your healthcare provider is best suited to advise you on a timetable for all screening tests.

What other resources are available to learn more about my health and laboratory tests?

- Lab Tests Online: labtestsonline.org
- WebMD: webmd.com

DLO Direct offers direct access to laboratory testing for informational purposes. A DLO Direct lab test result is not a medical diagnosis and is not intended as medical advice. Only a healthcare provider can interpret lab results and diagnose a medical condition or disease.

Because tests have not been ordered by a healthcare provider, third party entities, including Medicare and Medicaid, will not reimburse for these tests.



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