



Interpreting a CBC (Complete Blood Count)

WBC (WHITE BLOOD CELL): White Blood Cells are the body's defense mechanism against bacteria, viruses, and fungus. Your doctor will watch this level closely after a chemotherapy treatment.

NEUTROPHILS: The first line of defense against bacterial infections.

LYMPHOCYTES: B & T cells that attack foreign invaders.

MONOCYTES: Ingest foreign material, such as bacteria and fungus.

EOSINOPHILS: Destroy parasites and help with allergic reactions.

BASOPHILS: Play a major role in inflammation.

HEMAGLOBIN: The actual substance in the red blood cells that carry oxygen from the lungs to your tissues. When this number is low, you will feel more tired. If this number falls too low, your doctor will send you to St. Edward Mercy Medical Center Outpatient Services for a blood transfusion.

HEMATOCRIT: This is the percentage of the blood made up of the red blood cells. If this is too low, you are considered to be anemic and will need to be started on a product that helps stimulate the bone marrow to produce more red blood cells.

RBC (RED BLOOD CELL): Produced in the bone marrow. A decreased number represents anemia and an increased number indicates dehydration.

PLATELET COUNT: This is a number that measures the cell fragments that help stop bleeding. A decreased number represents thinning of the blood.