

# Lab Test Educator

## Sample CBC test for an HIV-positive person

Discuss your test results with your doctor.

**White blood cells:** help protect you from infections. For this patient, the total white blood cell count is 7.2 — within the normal range of 4.0 to 10.5.

**Result column:** shows counts that fall within the normal range.

**Flag column:** shows counts that are lower (L) or higher (H) than the normal range.

**Reference Interval (or Reference Range) column:** shows the normal range for each measurement. Different labs may use different Reference Intervals. The ranges for your test results may be slightly different, depending on where your results are processed.

**Hemoglobin (Hb or Hgb):** the part of the red blood cell that carries oxygen. This patient's Hb count is 10.8, which is below the normal range of 14.0 to 18.0 for a male. The **hematocrit (HCT)**, another way of measuring the amount of Hb, is also low. This means that he has **anemia** and may be starting to notice symptoms.

**Platelets:** the cells that form blood clots that stop bleeding. The platelet count for this patient is normal.

**Differential:** part of the CBC that shows counts for the 5 main kinds of white blood cells, either as percentages (the first 5 counts) or as the number of cells (the second 5 counts). This patient has a lower than normal poly count (also called PMNs or neutrophils) and a higher than normal lymph count (short for lymphocytes), which could be signs of a bacterial or viral infection.

Test	Result	Flag	Units	Reference Interval
<b>CBC WITH DIFFERENTIAL</b>				
White Blood Count	7.2		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	4.0-10.5
Red Blood Count		3.5L	x 10 <sup>6</sup> /μl	4.70-6.10
Hemoglobin		10.8L	g/dl	14.0-18.0
Hematocrit		31.1L	%	42.0-52.0
Platelets	302		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	140-415
Polys		43L	%	45-76
Lymphs		48H	%	17-44
Monocytes	7.0		%	3-10
Eos	2.0		%	0-4
Basos	0		%	0-2
Polys (absolute)	3.1		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	1.8-7.8
Lymphs (absolute)	3.5		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	0.7-4.5
Monocytes (absolute)	0.5		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	0.1-1.0
Eos (absolute)	0.1		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	0.0-0.4
Basos (absolute)	0.0		x 10 <sup>3</sup> /μl	0.0-0.2

Depending on your age and whether you're a man or a woman, these 3 ranges will vary. For women, they will be lower than those shown here. For example, the Hb Reference Interval for women is 12.0 to 16.0.

**Red blood cells:** carry oxygen from your lungs to the rest of your body. This patient has a red blood cell count of 3.5 — lower than the normal range of 4.70 to 6.10, and therefore shown in the Flag column.



PROCRIT® (Epoetin alfa) is an effective treatment for anemia induced by AZT-containing regimens in HIV patients. PROCRIT has a proven safety record. In studies, side effects were similar in PROCRIT- and placebo-treated patients. PROCRIT is available only by prescription. For complete details, see the prescribing information.

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