

LABORATORY TESTS



PRG
Quick
Notes

Hematology / Coagulation

→ Complete Blood Count

Use: basic blood evaluation
AKA: CBC

Note: usually includes Hct, Hgb, WBC counts and differential, platelet count, and often RBC count

→ Erythrocyte Count

AKA: RBC Count (red blood cell)

High: acute hepatitis, acute MI, PID, rheumatoid arthritis

Low: anemias, leukemias, and following severe hemorrhage

→ Hematocrit

Use: determines the % of whole blood composed of red blood cells

AKA: Hct, HCT

High: dehydration, Addison's disease, polycythemia due to dehydration and shock

Low: anemia, severe hemorrhage

→ Hemoglobin

Use: measures Hgb in the blood

AKA: Hb, Hgb

High: dehydration, pernicious anemia, sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, polycythemia, obstructive pulmonary diseases, CHF

Low: excessive fluid intake, iron deficiency anemia, pregnancy

→ Hemoglobin, Glycosylated

Use: monitors blood sugar control

AKA: HbA1C, GHb, DM control index

Note: Abnormal results over time indicate inadequate control.

→ Leukocyte Count

AKA: WBC Count (white blood cell)

High: acute infections, leukemias, acute hemorrhage

Low: chemotherapy, shock, cachexia

→ Partial Thromboplastin Time

Use: measures intrinsic clotting time

AKA: APTT, Activated

High: cirrhosis, leukemia, vitamin K deficiency, hemophilia

Low: extensive ca, early stages of disseminated intravascular coagulation

→ Platelet Count

Use: dx a bleeding disorder or bone marrow disease

AKA: thrombocyte count

High: iron deficiency anemia, post-op patients, malignancies, polycythemia

Low: acute leukemia, aplastic anemia, thrombocytopenic purpura

→ Prothrombin Time

Use: monitor blood-thinning medications used to prevent blood clots

AKA: PT, Pro Time

Prolonged: severe liver damage, heparin use, low vitamin K diet, colitis, chronic diarrhea

→ Reticulocyte Count

Use: measures % of reticulocytes

(slightly immature red blood cells)

High: need for RBCs, hemolytic anemias, acute or severe bleeding

Low: bone marrow failure (toxicity, tumor, fibrosis, infection), cirrhosis, iron deficiency radiation therapy

→ Sedimentation Rate

Use: monitors inflammatory and malignant diseases, and acute MI

AKA: erythrocyte sedimentation rate, sed rate, ESR

High: pregnancy, menstruation, infectious diseases, tissue damage

Serum Electrolytes

Note: essential to normal metabolism, exist as acids, bases, and salts

AKA: "Lytes"

→ Calcium, Total

Use: blood test to screen/monitor diseases of bone or calcium regulation

(diseases of parathyroid and kidneys)

AKA: Ca+2, Ca++, serum calcium

High: metastatic ca of bone, lung, breast, hyperparathyroidism, Paget's disease, excess vitamin D

Low: severe pancreatitis, uremia, renal insufficiency, malabsorption, osteomalacia, hypoparathyroidism

→ Chloride

AKA: Cl

High: renal insufficiency, necrosis, dehydration, renal tubular acidosis, Cushing's syndrome, hyperventilation

Low: CHF, chronic renal failure, diabetic acidosis, diarrhea, excessive sweating, emphysema

→ Magnesium

AKA: Mg+2

High: renal insufficiency, use of antacids with magnesium

Low: chronic alcoholism, chronic diarrhea, hepatic insufficiency

→ Phosphorus

AKA: PO4

High: renal insufficiency, healing fx, hypoparathyroidism, excess vitamin D

Low: chronic alcoholism, ketoacidosis, hyperalimentation, hyperparathyroidism

→ Potassium

AKA: K

High: renal insufficiency, adrenal insufficiency, Addison's disease, hypoventilation

Low: chronic diarrhea, vomiting or malabsorption syndrome, diabetic acidosis, chronic kidney disease, use of thiazide diuretics

→ Sodium

AKA: NA

High: (hyponatremia) excessive dietary intake, Cushing's disease, excessive sweating, diabetes incipiens

Low: (hyponatremia): ascites, CHF, insufficient intake, diarrhea, vomiting, SIADH (syndrome of inappropriate diuretic hormone), diuretic use, chronic renal insufficiency, excessive water intake, peripheral edema, pleural effusion

Serum / Urine / Stool

→ Acid Phosphatase

High: metastatic ca of bone, prostatic ca, some liver diseases, MI, pulmonary embolism, hyperparathyroidism, hepatobiliary diseases

→ Alanine Aminotransferase

Use: screens for liver disease

AKA: ALT, SGPT

High: acute hepatitis, liver necrosis

→ Albumin

Use: screen for liver or kidney disease or evaluate nutritional status

AKA: ALB

Note: albumin is a protein

High: shock, dehydration, multiple

Abbreviations

AKA also known as
Ca calcium
CHF congestive heart failure
Dx diagnosis

DM diabetes mellitus
Fx fracture
GI gastrointestinal
IV intravenous

MI myocardial infarction
NIDDM non-insulin dependent DM
NSAID non-steroidal antiinflammatory
Tx treatment

Generally accepted examples of conditions indicated by high and low results are provided. However, laboratory tests are only part of the diagnostic process and other documentation needs to be reviewed.

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Lei Shi



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