

WHITE BLOOD COUNT (WBC)

Definition: A WBC count is a blood test to measure the number of white blood cells (WBCs).

White blood cells help fight infections. They are also called leukocytes. There are five major types of white blood cells:

- Basophils
- Eosinophils
- Lymphocytes (T cells and B cells)
- Monocytes
- Neutrophils

Excerpted from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003643.htm>

RED BLOOD COUNT (RBC)

Definition: An RBC count is a blood test that tells how many red blood cells (RBCs) you have.

RBCs contain hemoglobin, which carries oxygen. How much oxygen your body tissues get depends on how many RBCs you have and how well they work.

Excerpted from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003644.htm>

COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC)

Definition: A complete blood count (CBC) test measures the following:

- The number of red blood cells (RBCs)
- The number of white blood cells (WBCs)
- The total amount of hemoglobin in the blood
- The fraction of the blood composed of red blood cells (hematocrit)
- The mean corpuscular volume (MCV) -- the size of the red blood cells

CBC also includes information about the red blood cells that is calculated from the other measurements:

- MCH (mean corpuscular hemoglobin)
- MCHC (mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration)

The platelet count is also usually included in the CBC.

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