
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: PLATELET COUNT

General Information

Lab Order Codes: PLTC

Synonyms: N/A

CPT Codes: 85049 – platelet count, automated

Test Includes: Platelet count reported as k/uL

Logistics

Test Indications: For evaluating, diagnosing, and/or following up bleeding disorders, drug induced thrombocytopenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), leukemia states, and investigating purpuric petechiae.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 2 hours

Special Instructions: **Do Not** collect specimen while lipids are being infused.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container: EDTA Lavender top tube or EDTA Lavender Microtainer®

Draw Volume: Lavender (EDTA) 2 mL Vacutainer tube: Minimum fill volume of **1 mL** is required. Allow the tube to fill until the vacuum is exhausted, and blood flow ceases.
Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer® tube: Minimum of **0.5 mL** is required. To be used for neonates, collected volumes <1.0 mL, or when a capillary (skin puncture) collection is required.

Processed Volume:	Same as Draw Volume
Stability:	Optimal when run within in 4 hours of collection. Stable 48 hours refrigerated for CBC parameters
Collection:	Venipuncture or Capillary collection
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Do not centrifuge. Process as whole blood.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; overfilled tubes; mislabelled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range:	150 - 450 x 10 ³ /uL
Critical Values:	<50 or >1,000 x 10 ³ /uL <5 x 10 ³ /uL Hem/Onc clinics
Limitations:	Hyperlipemia or an extremely elevated WBC may on rare occasion delay the turnaround time of the platelet count.
Methodology:	A combination of techniques, including fluorescence flow cytometry, hydrodynamic focusing, impedance, and non-cyanide SLS hemoglobin measurement.
References:	Harmening DH (1997) Clinical Hematology and Fundamentals of Hemostasis, 3rd ed Oski and Nathan (1998) Hematology of Infancy and Childhood, 5 th ed
Updates:	4/2/2025: Updated methodology and volume requirements