Lab Dept: Hematology
Test Name: HEMATOCRIT

General Information

Lab Order Codes: HCT
Synonyms: Whole Blood Hematocrit; Microhematocrit; Packed Cell Volume; PCV
CPT Codes: 85014 – Blood count; Other than spun hematocrit
Test Includes: Hematocrit reported as a %.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for evaluating anemia, blood loss, hemolytic anemia, polycythemia, and state of hydration, etc.
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: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood
Container:
- Lavender (EDTA) top tube
- Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer
- Sims Portex® syringe (PB151) or Smooth-E syringe (956-463)
  Accepted: Radiometer Balanced Heparin Capillary gas tube (MIN: 70 uL cap tube, STP: 100 uL cap tube)
**Draw Volume:**
2 mL blood in a 2 mL Lavender top tube
OR
0.5 mL in a EDTA Microtainer®
OR
**0.4 mL (Minimum: 0.2 mL syringe, MIN: 0.07 mL capillary, STP: 0.1 mL capillary) blood**

**Processed Volume:**
Same as Draw Volume

**Collection:**
Fill to mark on tube or Microtainer®. Mix thoroughly by gentle inversion.

**Special Processing:**
Lab Staff: **Do Not** centrifuge

**Patient Preparation:**
None

**Sample Rejection:**
Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:**
Age and sex dependent; [Refer to CBC Reference Value Table](#)

**Critical Values:**
<21% and >67%

**Limitations:**
Falsely high results may occur with cryoproteins, significant leukocytosis, and giant platelets. False low results may be seen with microcytosis, in vitro hemolysis or with autoagglutinins.

**Methodology:**
Automated cell counter; calculated (HCT = RBC x MCV)

**References:**

**Updates:**
2/17/2005: Critical values previously listed as 0-7 days: <35/>65%, 8-28 days: <30/>65%, >28 days: <25/>65%.
1/26/2015: Critical value change, previously listed as <21% and >65%.
5/8/2019: Added hep syringe and cap tube as acceptable specimens