
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

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. **No follow-up or add on Hematology testing can be performed on specimens collected as a heparin syringe or capillary tube
Methodology:	Automated cell counter; calculated (HCT = RBC x MCV)
References:	Harmening DH (1997) Clinical Hematology and Fundamentals of Hemostasis, 3 rd ed
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