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**Lab Dept:** Hematology

**Test Name:** PARASITE, QUANTITATIVE BLOOD

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** PARQ

**Synonyms:** Quantitative malaria, Babesia, Ehrlichia

**CPT Codes:** 85044 – Reticulocyte count, manual

**Test Includes:** # of infected RBC's, total RBC's and % of infected RBC's

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful for detecting infection with a blood parasite. Since infection with blood parasite cannot be ruled out by a single blood sample, blood for detecting parasites should be collected as follows:

On admission or when first suspected of parasitic infection.

This test is performed on all positives until parasites are no longer seen on the peripheral smear.

If a patient is experiencing cyclic fevers, collect the specimen a half-hour prior to the next onset of fever.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Hematology

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 4 hours

**Special Instructions:** Specimen must arrive within 1 hour of collection.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood

**Container:** Lavender (EDTA) top tube or Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer®

<b>Draw Volume:</b>	2 mL blood in a 2 mL Lavender top tube <b>OR</b> 0.5 mL in an EDTA Microtainer®
<b>Processed Volume:</b>	Same as Draw Volume
<b>Collection:</b>	Routine blood collection. Fill to mark on tube or Microtainer®. Mix well by gentle inversion.
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: <b>Do Not</b> centrifuge. Specimen should remain as whole blood in original collection container.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	Manual Miller Disc: 0 %
<b>Critical Values:</b>	N/A
<b>Limitations:</b>	N/A
<b>Methodology:</b>	Manual Count using a Miller Disc
<b>References:</b>	Children's Hospitals and Clinics Hematology Laboratory, October 2004