



Complete Blood Count (CBC)



Overview

This is an examination of your blood cells. It gives your doctor information about your red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets, along with other features of your blood. Your doctor may recommend this test as part of your routine healthcare, or to look for signs of a specific disease or disorder. Your doctor may also use this test to monitor a blood disorder or to monitor your health during treatment.

Collection

The blood sample is usually taken with a needle from a vein in your arm. It may be collected in a vial or a syringe.

Exam

The sample is sent to a laboratory. Technicians process the blood in a machine, analyze it and then send your doctor a report. In some cases, results can be returned very quickly. But often, you will not get the full results until the next day.

Results

If your results are not normal, you may need to repeat the test to make sure the results are accurate. Your doctor can tell you what steps to take after an abnormal test.