

FILM REPORT AND/OR WBC DIFFERENTIAL

Description	Examination of a stained peripheral blood film using microscopy to assess the state of health of the various cellular components, and on occasion to detect any atypical or abnormal findings. A Differential WBC involves counting the 5 types of WBCs normally found in PB, plus any more immature forms that may be present. The results are usually expressed as an absolute count ($\times 10^9/L$)
Indication	Previously unknown cases of Anaemia, suspected cases of Parasite infestation, and confirmation of unexplained low Platelet counts. Also detection of various Leukaemias and Lymphomas, and the monitoring of the patients progress.
Additional Info	The well-dried peripheral blood film is methanol-fixed, and then stained with one or more of the Romanowsky-type stains which demonstrate characteristic patterns and colours within the various cell types.
Concurrent Tests	The decision to examine a blood film is usually based on the findings of an FBC.
Interpretation	Variable, depending on the reason for performing the test. May be used to aid diagnosis of problems with all the blood cell types, to confirm and abnormal FBC results (e.g. Low platelets) or may be used to monitor patient progress.
Collection Conditions	See FBC.
Frequency Of Testing	As required
Clinical AdviceContact	Haematology SPR