

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Nursing Skill*

STUDENT NAME _____

SKILL NAME _____ REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

Description of Skill

White Blood Cell (WBC)

Indications

This lab will tell us how many WBCs are present throughout the body.

Outcomes/Evaluation

Normal Findings?

Normal Range: 4,500 to 11,000 cells/mm³

Abnormal Findings?

Elevated levels (Leukocytosis) of WBCs are above 11,000 cells/mm³
Decreased levels (Leukopenia) of WBCs are below 4,500 cells/mm³

Potential Complications

Elevated WBCs, also known as Leukocytosis, can be an indication of infection, inflammation, leukemia, stress, and steroid use.
Decreased WBCs, also known as Leukopenia, can be related to immunosuppression, bone marrow suppression, and chemotherapy.

CONSIDERATIONS

Nursing Interventions (pre, intra, post)

If an infection or inflammation develops, the lab results will show an increased value of WBCs.

Client Education

Normal Range: 4,500 to 11,000 cells/mm³

Known as leukocytes.

WBCs protect the body against infections. If an infection develops, WBCs are sent out to help destroy the organism that is causing the infection. There are various types of WBCs and they are created in the bone marrow.

Nursing Interventions

Identify risk factors predisposing patient to infection.

Monitor WBC count, as ordered. Report elevations or depressions. Elevated total WBC count indicates infection.

References:
Hinkle, J.L., & Cheever, K. H. (2022). Brunner & Suddarth's textbook of medical-surgical Nursing (15th ed.). Wolters Kluwer Health Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

N321 PowerPoint Presentation - Lab Analysis/Diagnostics

Phelps, L.L. (2020). Sparks and Taylor's Nursing Diagnosis Reference Manual (11th ed.). Wolters Kluwer