

Common Blood Tests

Your Haematologist may order numerous blood and urine tests to help diagnose or manage your condition. Listed below are some of the more common tests that can be ordered in a haematology practice. For more information on these or any other tests, we highly recommend www.labtestsonline.org.au

Name of test	Abbreviation	What the test is for	Additional comments	Do I need to fast?
Activated protein C resistance	APCR	A test for the presence of an inherited tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia")		no
Antibody screen		To detect any antibodies to blood group or red cells, part of preparation for a possible transfusion of blood products	Expires after 72 hours so needs to be done within 72 hours of a transfusion	no
Anti-dsDNA		To diagnose and monitor systemic lupus erythematosus	None	no
Antinuclear antibody	ANA	To screen for certain autoimmune disorders	None	no
Antiphospholipid antibodies	APL, APS antibodies	To investigate blood clots, recurrent miscarriage, to evaluate the reason for an abnormal APTT test, to investigate clotting disorders	none	no
Antithrombin III	ATIII	A test for the presence of a tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia") To help diagnose antithrombin deficiency	None	no

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APTT, INR		A test of blood clotting		no
Beta-2 Glycoprotein antibodies	antiB2GP1, B2GP1	To investigate inappropriate blood clot formation, recurrent miscarriage, evaluation for possible antiphospholipid antibody syndrome	none	no
Beta-2 microglobulin	B2M	A blood marker that is increased in some blood cancers		
Blood cultures	BC	To check for infection in the blood stream	none	no
Blood film	film	A manual examination of the appearance of the blood cells. Size, shape and number of cells is noted	Performed by a scientist with a microscope	no
Blood group testing	ABO &RhD	To determine your blood group in advance of a possible blood product transfusion	none	no
C reactive protein	CRP	To look for markers of infection or inflammation		no
Calcium, magnesium, phosphate	CMP	Measures levels of these important electrolytes in the blood	The ionized calcium can be a more accurate measure of calcium	no
D-dimer	DD	To look for signs of abnormal clotting such as deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus or disseminated intravascular coagulation	Often performed with other tests of coagulation such as aPTT and INR/PT Anticoagulants can cause a false negative DD	no

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electrophoresis	SEPG, UEPG, IEPG	To check for abnormal proteins in the blood (SEPG) or urine (UEPG) and to check the type of protein (IEPG) Urine EPG is often a 24 hour collection of urine	Useful in the diagnosis and monitoring of myeloma	no
erythropoietin	Epo	To look for causes of anaemia, and to differentiate between causes of abnormally high haemoglobin	May be used to determine eligibility for treatment with Epo in the context of renal impairment or myelodysplasia	no
ESR		To detect signs of inflammation or infection. Also elevated in some blood cancers		no
Factor V Leiden	FVL Thrombophilia screen	A test for the presence of an inherited tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia")		no
Factor V Leiden	FVL, activated Protein C resistance, APCR	To detect the presence of a genetic tendency to clot (thrombophilia)	Can be done whilst on warfarin or other anticoagulation	no
Flow cytometry, immunophenotyping	PB flow, BM flow, CSF flow	Detects the presence of abnormal populations of cells using their molecular signature	Can be taken from blood, bone marrow or cerebrospinal fluid	no
Free Light Chains	FLC	See 'serum free light chains'		no
Full blood examination	FBE	measures amount of red cells, white cells and platelets. Some features of red cell size and shape	Measured by an automated machine	no

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Hepatitis A, B or C serology	HAV, HBV, HCV	To detect for the presence of active infection, subacute infection, or immunity to hepatitis A, B or C	Vital before any treatment which may suppress the immune system	no
Herpes serology	HCV	To detect the presence of the herpes virus	Vital before any treatment which may suppress the immune system	no
HIV serology	HIV	To detect the presence of the HIV virus	Vital before any treatment which may suppress the immune system	no
HLA testing	HLA	To identify which HLA genes and antigens a person has inherited. Enables matching of donors to recipients in organ transplantation	Usually a blood sample drawn from your arm. Occasionally a swab taken from inside your cheek.	no
immunofixation	IEPG, IF	Identifies what subtype of abnormal protein is present		no
Immunoglobulins	Igs, quantitative Igs	To measure levels of antibodies and detect deficiencies which may predispose to infections and other diseases.		no
Influenza testing		Detects the presence of the influenza virus	Usually a nose or throat swab	no
Iron studies	Fe studies	To check for presence of low iron levels or excessively high iron levels	Useful in the diagnosis of anaemia. Useful in the diagnosis and monitoring of iron overload such as in haemochromatosis, or multiple blood transfusions	no

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Lactate dehydrogenase	LDH	An enzyme that is elevated in numerous diseases including blood cancers, liver disease, infection	Can be a useful marker for the activity or aggressiveness of a disease	no
Liver function tests	LFTs	Measures levels of liver enzymes, indicators of jaundice (bilirubin) and liver synthetic function (albumin)		no
Lupus anticoagulant	LA	A test for the presence of a tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia")	None	no
Lupus Anticoagulant	LA	To evaluate a prolonged aPTT or an event of thrombosis, or recurrent late-trimester pregnancy loss	Not used in the diagnosis of lupus itself	no
Platelet Function Assay	PFA100	Used to investigate prolonged bleeding or easy bruising	Test is affected by antiplatelet agents such as aspirin, anti-inflammatory agents and some herbal medications. Test is also affected if the patient is very anaemic	Discuss all medications with your doctor prior to having this test.
Protein C	Prot C	A test for the presence of a tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia")	None Must not be on warfarin	no
Protein S	Prot S	A test for the presence of a tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia")	None Must not be on warfarin	no

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Prothrombin gene mutation	Prothrombin gene 20210A Thrombophilia screen	A test for the presence of an inherited tendency to form blood clots (a "thrombophilia")		no
Serum electrophoresis	SEPG	Measures levels of proteins in the serum Detects and measures levels of abnormal serum proteins (paraproteins)		no
Serum free light chains	SFLC, FLC	Measures levels of small fragments of paraproteins called free light chains		no
Urea, electrolytes, creatinine	UEC, U&E	Measures levels of important salts or electrolytes in the blood such as sodium, potassium Measures kidney function via the urea and creatinine	Measured by an automated machine	no
Urine electrophoresis	UEPG	Measures levels of proteins in the urine Detects and measures levels of abnormal serum proteins (paraproteins) and fragments of paraproteins (Bence Jones Proteins)	May be done as a spot urine test or as part of a 24-hour urine collection which determines the rate of abnormal protein excretion in the urine)	no
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		for	comments	fast?
Vitamin B12, folate	B12 Folate	To investigate causes of certain anaemias, and some nerve disorders		Fasting 6 hours prior to folate assay