

Beaumont

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Document Contact: [Rebecca Bacarella: Mgr](#)
[Laboratory](#)
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Pathologist Consults: Hematology-RO

Document Type: Procedure

I. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE:

When a clinician wishes to have an in-depth interpretation of a patient's peripheral smear, a Pathologist Consult is ordered. This consult includes a CBC with differential, reticulocyte count, a patient history and a pathologist interpretation.

II. ACRONYMS:

- A. R/O: Rule Out
- B. Path Consult: Hematology Pathologist Consult
- C. CBCWD: Complete Blood Count with differential
- D. HEMC: Hematology Pathologist Consult Report
- E. BM/PC CBC: Complete Blood Count with differential and reticulocyte count for a bone marrow or path consult order.

III. SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND HANDLING:

Refer to See "Complete Blood Count, Differential, and Reticulocyte-XE-5000" procedure.

IV. SUPPLIES

Refer to See "Complete Blood Count, Differential, and Reticulocyte-XE-5000" procedure.

V. QUALITY CONTROL:

Refer to See "Complete Blood Count, Differential, and Reticulocyte-XE-5000" procedure.

VI. PROCEDURE:

- A. All path consults must have an accompanying sign/symptom or diagnosis before the request can be processed.
 - 1. While R/O is often a useful way to communicate a suspicion to the consulting Hematopathologist, it is NOT sufficient.

- B. Outpatient requests must be accompanied by a copy of the patient's script when a Hematopathologist consult is ordered.
- C. Orders for a "Hemogram" must be clarified with the ordering physician as to what exactly is being requested, as "Hemogram" is not an acceptable order.
- D. The specimen is analyzed on a hematology analyzer for a CBC, differential and reticulocyte.
 - 1. (Differential results for Path Consults follow the same protocol as routine differentials.)
- E. Use Case Builder to assign case number, pathologist assigned, and generate barcoded labels.
 - 1. See Attachment A: Workflow for Case Building Hematology Pathologist Consults
- F. Use two patient identifiers when labeling all specimens and paperwork.
- G. Place stained slides on tissue-tek coverslipper for automated coverslipping. Affix barcoded slide labels to stained peripheral smears after coverslipping slides.
- H. The differential is performed and reported per procedure.
- I. Place the following into a slide folder:
 - 1. Two coverslipped Wright stained peripheral blood smears (plus Albumin smear(s) as needed)
 - 2. Hematology analyzer histogram / scattergram printouts
 - 3. Laboratory Information System (LIS) Final Report
- J. Place the slide folder and paperwork in the designated area on the bone marrow bench.
- K. Archive the EDTA specimen.
- L. The cases should be delivered to the pathologist(s) who is reading out Path Consults that day. Alternatively, the pathologist may choose to pick up the cases first thing in the morning.
- M. Path Consults received after 3 pm should be assigned to the pathologist(s) who is reading Path Consults the following day.
- N. When case is returned from pathologist, ensure oil is cleaned from smear.
- O. File case in appropriate slide storage box.

VII. EXPECTED VALUES:

The interpretation of Pathologist Consult requires evaluation of clinical history, physical findings, and laboratory data by the pathologist who will then issue an interpretive consultation of the morphologic findings.

VIII. NOTE:

- A. In order to ensure compliance with Medicare and other federal regulatory agencies, the hematology laboratory instituted the written policy in 1998 of not accepting requests for pathologist consultation to review normal CBC/differential results. When CBC/Diff results are normal, the pathologist will notify the hematology tech to cancel the consult (H-Number as well as the report (HEMC)) in the LIS with the smart phrase "canceled due to normal results" (.HE21). The CBC/Diff and retic count will be reported. See Attachment B: Compliance Bulletin.
- B. Original EDTA specimens are stable for 8h at room temperature (20-25°C or 68-77°F). Due to the deterioration of morphology on aged specimens, it is not appropriate to add a Path Consult to an EDTA specimen that was collected over 24 hours from request. All requests for an add-on Path Consults should

be re-directed at obtaining a fresh specimen.

- C. If a Hematopathologist consult is required, it must be indicated. It is essential in ordering Hematopathologist consults to avoid use of the word "Hemogram". A hemogram is a simple CBC without platelet count or differential and is not synonymous with a consult.
- D. Pathology Consults are only available more frequently than once per week if approved by a pathologist.

IX. REFERENCES:

- A. Williams WJ: Hematology, 3rd Ed, New York: McGraw Hill, 1983:25-27.
- B. Dutcher TF: Personal communication.
- C. Mattson JC: Personal communication.

Attachments

[Attachment B- Compliance Bulletin.pdf](#)

[Attachement A- Workflow for Case Building Hematology Pathologist Consults.pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Ann Marie Blenc: System Med Dir, Hematopath	11/17/2021
Hematology Medical Director Designee	Ann Marie Blenc: System Med Dir, Hematopath	11/17/2021
Policy and Forms Steering Committee Approval (if needed)	Rebecca Bacarella: Mgr Laboratory	11/17/2021
Policy and Forms Steering Committee Approval (if needed)	Gail Juleff: Project Mgr Policy	11/17/2021
System Manager	Rebecca Bacarella: Mgr Laboratory	11/17/2021
	Rebecca Bacarella: Mgr Laboratory	11/17/2021

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