





Blood Film

Synonyms	Blood film, blood smear
Clinical Indication	<p>Checking of morphological features of blood cells. Not to be used for malarial film request, please see Malarial Parasites.</p> <p>Must always accompany a Full Blood Count. Reason for request should be given.</p>
Part of Profile / See Also	FBC
Request Form	Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	On request / generated by Haematology as part of a full blood count if required.
Turnaround Time	Routine request: 48 hours from time sample received in the laboratory.
Patient Preparation	None required
Sample Requirements	
Specimen Type	Whole Blood
Volume	3 or 4 mL
Container	 Purple top (EDTA) tube  Paediatric Lavender top (ETDA) tube
	<p>Sample taken for FBC can also be used for blood film review. Sample should ideally reach the laboratory within 4 hours of collection to minimise effects of storage artefacts.</p>
Reference Range & Units	Not applicable
Interferences	Clotted samples unsuitable, EDTA changes due to morphological features (see sample requirements)
Interpretation & Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)	<p>Film morphology comments reported by laboratory, to be interpreted by clinicians.</p> <p>Films will be passed onto the haematology clinicians for clinical comments on request of if clinical referral criteria are met.</p>
References	N/A
Test code	FILM
Lab Handling	Prepare film as soon as possible.