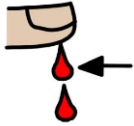




NHS

Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children
NHS Foundation Trust

Having a blood test – which test? (Easy Read)



Blood carries oxygen along with food to every part of your body. Your body needs oxygen and food to work. Blood is made up of different types of blood cell.



- White blood cells fight off infection



- Platelets help our blood to clot



- Red blood cells carry oxygen around the body



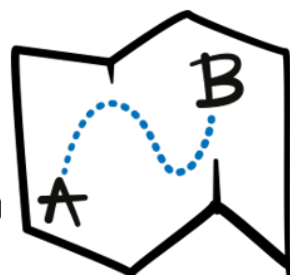
Blood cells are made in your bone marrow. This is a liquid centre in some of your bones.



Looking at your blood under a microscope can help the doctors work out how to look after you.



A small sample of your blood can tell your doctor a lot of things. Different tests can tell them different things.





An FBC counts how many of each blood cell type are in the sample.



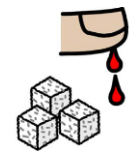
Clotting works out how quickly your blood can form a clot to stop bleeding.



G&S works out what your blood type is so we make sure that blood is available if you need a transfusion.



U&E measures the amount of minerals and salts in your blood. These are important to keep your body working well.



Blood glucose measures the amount of sugar in your blood. The sugar comes from the food you eat, including starchy food like potatoes.



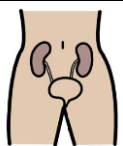
CRP looks at whether you have any swelling or inflammation in your body. It doesn't show where or what is causing it.



ESR is another way of looking for inflammation. It measures how quickly a drop of blood goes to the bottom of a test tube.



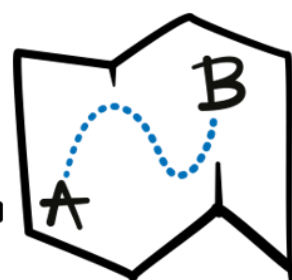
LFTs check how your liver is working to clean your blood. There are lots of different types of LFT looking at different things.



Creatinine tests look at how your kidneys are working. Creatinine is a waste product that is removed by your kidneys.



Blood cultures look for bacteria and fungi in the blood. They also help the doctors choose the right medicine to get rid of it.





Some tests involve looking closely through a microscope at the blood sample.



Others involve complex machinery that test and analyse the blood sample for specific substances.



Our scientists are highly trained and experienced in testing blood samples and carry them out as quickly and reliably as they can.



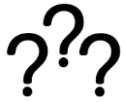
When they have the results, they are checked and then added to your medical record.



Your doctor will be able to see the results and work out what they need to do next.



They will tell you the results at your next clinic appointment and what they mean for you.



Please ask us if you have any questions.

