How to Figure the Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC)

White blood cells (WBCs) help destroy bacteria or foreign substances that enter the body. There are several types of white blood cells (leukocytes). One type is called neutrophil. The neutrophils make up over half of the total white blood cell count. These are the main blood cells that fight infection.

Sometimes you may have to figure out the value of your Absolute Neutrophil Count. This is commonly called the ANC. Knowing the value of the ANC is needed for taking drugs to stimulate blood cells to develop-colony-stimulating factors. Your health care team may teach you to figure the ANC for other reasons. For example, this could be for you to know when to use an immunocompromised diet (low bacterial diet) or when to wear a respiratory mask.

When you have your blood drawn for laboratory work, the report gives a number of factors. Sometimes the blood work includes the “Absolute Granulocyte” count. The lab at The James main campus gives this figure. This is another name for Absolute Neutrophil Count.

Sometimes you may have to figure out the ANC yourself. This may be needed if you have blood work done at a place where this is not already given. Laboratory work counts the complex parts of your blood. They use highly specialized words on lab reports.

Here is how to use those counts to figure your ANC. Follow the formula on the next page. It may seem complicated until you have done it a few times. It would help to have a nurse or other health caregiver help you at first. It may help to use a calculator.
### Formula to Figure Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Here’s how to calculate</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Figure yours here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add together the • Segmented Neutrophils (*See note below) • And the Band Neutrophils. This equals Total Neutrophils</td>
<td>0.55 + 0.05 ____ Total = 0.60</td>
<td>Use figures given to you from the lab: • Segmented Neutrophils ______ • Plus Band Neutrophils + ______ Equals Total Neutrophils ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now multiply this total • Times the White Blood Cell (WBC) count - * remove the decimal point (cells/mms3)</td>
<td>X 5000 ____ ANC = 3000</td>
<td>Multiply Times X ______ • White Blood Cell (WBC) count (cells/mms3) *Without any decimal point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This total is the • Absolute Neutrophil Count</td>
<td></td>
<td>This is your ANC = ______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* If these figures are given as percentages, then insert the decimal point two places to the left to use this formula. For example if the number says 55%, change it to .55. You will need to remove the decimal from the White Blood Cell (WBC) count 1.900 = 1900.

Some additional places to figure your ANC are on this page. You can make copies of this page. Date it and make a note in the “Action” area what you did with the information. For example, if you took a medication based on the ANC or if you reported the reading to a health caregiver.
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ANC Calculation                    Date:

Enter the Segmented Neutrophils   ________
Plus the Band Neutrophils          + ________
Equals Total Neutrophils           ________
Multiply this times                X ________
    the White Blood Cell (WBC)
    count (cells/mms3)

* remove the decimal point (WBC) (cells/mms3)

This is the ANC = ________
Action:

Where can I get more information?
Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have questions. If you would like more information ask for these teaching sheets:

• Blood Work Record Sheet for Oncology Patients
• Understanding Blood Cell Counts
• Low White Blood Cell Count Precautions

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