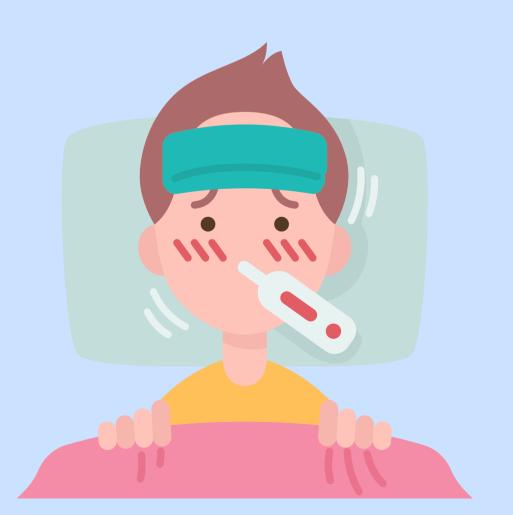
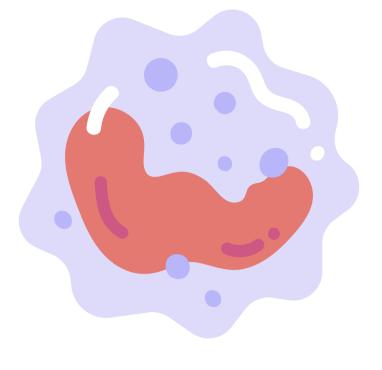
# Febrile Neutropenia





## What is neutrophil?

Your immune system uses neutrophils to combat infections and speed up wound healing. The most prevalent sort of white blood cell in your body is a neutrophil. If your absolute neutrophil count is above or below a healthy range, it can be used to determine if your body has adequate neutrophils.

White blood cells known as neutrophils, or leukocytes, serve as the first line of defence for your immune system. White blood cells come in three different varieties: granulocytes, lymphocytes, and monocytes. A subgroup of granulocytes that also includes eosinophils and basophils is known as neutrophils. Your white blood cells work as a team to defend your body against illness and damage.

- Sweating
- Shivering and chills
- Headache

- Irritability
- Generally weak

# What is neutropenia?

- Your body's destruction of neutrophils before your bone marrow can produce more leads to neutropenia. A low neutrophil count can be brought on by: (Hepatitis, TB, sepsis, and Lyme disease) Infection. Chemotherapy.
- Leukaemia, a disease of the bone marrow.
- Vitamin (copper, folate, and vitamin B12) deficiencies. (Crohn's disease, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis) Autoimmune illness.

The quantity of neutrophils in a sample of your blood can be determined by an absolute neutrophil count. In a healthy adult, there should be between 2,500 and 7,000 neutrophils per microliter of blood. You run the danger of having a neutrophil problem if your number is 7,000 or lower than 2,500.

# What is fever?

- An abrupt increase in body temperature is known as a fever. It's a portion of the immune system's whole reaction. Infections frequently result in fever. Body temperatures vary somewhat during the day and from person to person. The standard definition of the average temperature is 98.6 F (37 C). A temperature of 100 F (37.8 C) or above obtained using a mouth thermometer (oral temperature) is typically regarded as a fever.
- Other symptoms and indicators of a fever, depending on the cause, may include:
- Muscle pain
- Reduced appetite
- Dehydration

# What is febrile neutropenia?

A fever (temperature exceeding 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) can occur in people with neutropenia. This fever is neutropenic. It indicates an infection. This is quite dangerous and requires immediate antibiotic treatment.

If you have a neutropenic fever, visit the closest hospital emergency department.

## **Signs of attention**

While receiving chemotherapy, if your temperature rises beyond 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius, you should visit the local emergency centre right away. If you experience any of these signs, contact your healthcare provider immediately away:

- Cools
- Excessive perspiration (for you)
- Coughing or breathing difficulties; sore throats or mouth sores; redness or swelling of the skin or the area surrounding skin sores; and diarrhea or loose feces ("poop")
- Trouble urinating ("peeing"), more frequent urination than usual, or burning when urinating; 

   Vaginal discharge or itching (more frequently than usual)
- Flu-like symptoms, such as severe fatigue and body pains.



# **Treatment and care**

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By developing an action plan with your healthcare practitioner, you can take action to raise your neutrophil count if it is low and prevent infection. They might recommend:

- Changing the chemotherapy's dose or timing.
- Receiving a transfusion of white blood cells.
- Halting the use of any drug that lowers white blood cell counts.
- Using antibiotics or medications that increase the production of white blood cells.
- Getting a yearly flu shot.
- Avoiding ill individuals.
- Consuming a balanced diet.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after using the restroom and before eating.
- If you don't have soap and water, you can use a waterless cleanser (hand sanitizer).
- Spend a total of 15 seconds washing your hands, including the backs, between the fingers, and under the nails. Wash the soap off.
- Proper oral hygiene is crucial. After meals and before going to bed, clean your teeth with a gentle toothbrush.
- Before seeing a dentist if you are experiencing dental issues, consult your doctor first.
- Discuss sex with your medical staff. You might require more lubricant than normal.
- Take a warm shower soon away after having sex.
   Self-cleanse thoroughly. Do not engage in any sexual activity if your white blood cell count is really low.

## **More information**

www.asco.org www.bccancer.bc.ca www.cancerontario.ca www.clevelandclinic.org www.mayoclinic.org

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