

Blood: platelet count

What are some of the potential diagnoses when a person has a high platelet count (> 450)?

Answer:

Platelets are the smallest cell-like structures in the blood and are important for blood clotting and plugging damaged blood vessels. Platelet counts are usually done by laboratory machines that also count other blood elements such as the white and red cells. Normal platelet counts are in the range of 150,000 to 400,000 per micro liter (or 150 - 400 x 10⁹ per liter), but the normal range for the platelet count varies slightly among different laboratories.

An elevated platelet count is known as thrombocytosis. An elevated platelet count can be observed in people without significant medical problems. Mild to moderately elevated platelet counts are commonly seen when chronic inflammation is present. In other cases a high platelet count can signal a more serious blood problem known as a myeloproliferative disorder (abnormal growth of blood cell elements within the bone marrow). It may be necessary to perform additional tests to determine the cause of an abnormally high platelet count.