



Red Blood Cell Indices

(MCV, MCH, MCHC)



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1. Mean Cell Volume (MCV)



- **MCV** is the average volume of single red blood cells.
- it is expressed in cubic micron or femtoliter (10^{-15} liter)
- The normal value is **(82 - 98 FL)**.
- When MCV is increased, the cell is known as a **macrocyte** and when it is decreased, the cell is called **microcyte**.

$$\text{MCV} = \frac{\text{Packed cell volume (P.C.V.)} \times 10}{\text{No. of R.B.C.}} = ? \text{ (FL)}$$

2. Mean Cell Hemoglobin (MCH)



- This is the weight or amount of hemoglobin present in one red blood cell.
- It is expressed in micro micro gram or Pico gram (pg).
- The normal value of MCH is **(27 - 32 pg.)**.

$$\text{MCH} = \frac{\text{Hemoglobin in grams} \times 10}{\text{No. of R.B.C.}} = ? \text{ (Pg)}$$

3. Mean Cell Hemoglobin Concentration (MCHC)



- This is the concentration of hemoglobin in one red blood cell.
- It is the amount of hemoglobin expressed in relation to the volume of one red blood cell. So, the unit of expression is percentage.
- This is the most important absolute value in the diagnosis of anemia.
- The normal value of MCHC is (32% to 36%).

$$\text{MCHC} = \frac{\text{Hemoglobin in grams} \times 100}{\text{P.C.V.}} = \% \quad \text{Without units}$$

