

## Re: Interpreting blood test results

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**From:** Manky Badger (*spam\_at\_puritanDOTfreeserve.FULLSTOPcoSPOTuk*)

**Date:** 01/08/05

Date: Sat, 8 Jan 2005 17:27:11 -0000

"Mike" <find@reply.to> wrote in message  
news:34affvF48qa4IU2@individual.net...

> "Manky Badger" <spam@puritanDOTfreeserve.FULLSTOPcoSPOTuk> wrote:

>

>>An Hb of 17.5 in a newborn is to be expected.

>>An Hb of 17.5 in a fourteen year old girl is VERY abnormal and warrants

>>immediate urgent investigation.

>

> So what about mine then?

>

> I'm a 45 year old bloke and my Hb is 16, so what does that mean?

Whilst at first sight this would seem "in the normal range" for a male of that age, you've made no mention of your medical history, clinical symptoms & previous results.

If you are a chap with an Hb of 16g/dl who's Hb has previously consistently run at 13g/dl, then alarm bells might ring.

You have Hb of 16g/dl – this result is pretty meaningless on its own.

There are perfectly healthy people and terminally ill people with an Hb of 16g/dl.

Presumably you're "ill" in the first place to warrant having a blood count ?

A "normal" blood test result doesn't rule out disease. You REALLY can't take these numbers in isolation. Interpretation of a blood test is more than a set of numbers – it involves clinical assessment of the patient too.