



# Maternal adaptations to pregnancy: Hematologic changes

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## INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy is characterized by profound changes in almost every organ system to accommodate the growing and developing fetoplacental unit. The major hematologic changes include expanded plasma volume, physiologic anemia, mild neutrophilia in some individuals, and a mild prothrombotic state. The clinician must be able to distinguish these anticipated physiologic changes from those caused by pregnancy-related complications.

This topic discusses physiologic changes in blood volume, blood cells, and hemostasis during pregnancy. Cardiovascular and vascular changes associated with pregnancy and hematologic complications of pregnancy are discussed in separate topic reviews:

- (See "[Maternal adaptations to pregnancy: Cardiovascular and hemodynamic changes](#)".)
- (See "[Anemia in pregnancy](#)".)
- (See "[Approach to the adult with unexplained neutropenia](#)".)

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