

Quick Tips – From the ER

From Little Comes Much

A small hematocrit tube can provide a large amount of information. Regularly checking packed cell volumes (PCVs) and total proteins (TPs) is an easy and inexpensive, yet often overlooked, monitoring tool to help guide therapy on hospitalized patients. Changes in the PCV/TP assist in evaluating hydration status and IV fluid administration rates, may indicate anemia or hemorrhage and the need to consider transfusion therapy, and can signal falling oncotic pressure due to progressive hypoproteinemia, which may indicate use of colloid support. The size of the buffy coat and presence or absence of icterus provide additional helpful information. PCV/TPs are often checked at least every 12 hours, or more frequently as dictated by the patient's condition.

*We hope you found this information helpful,
The team of PESCM*



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