Frequently Asked Questions- Immature Granulocytes (IG)

1. **What is the definition of the automated Immature Granulocyte count?** – The automated Immature Granulocyte count (IG) is part of the automated WBC differential. The Immature Granulocyte count is an enumeration of metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes present in the CBC blood sample. The IG count does not include band neutrophil forms. The Immature Granulocyte count is reported as an absolute count (IG#) and as a percent of the total WBC count (IG%).

2. **Has the automated IG count been cleared by the FDA?** – Yes, the automated IG% and IG# has been cleared by the FDA on the following analyzers: Sysmex XN-Series™, Sysmex XE-Series™, and Sysmex XT-Series™.

3. **How is the automated IG count generated on the analyzer?** – The automated IG% and IG# results are generated utilizing fluorescent flow cytometry in the WDF channel of the Sysmex XN-Series analyzers and the WBC differential channel of the Sysmex XE and XT analyzers. It is a reportable parameter that extends the WBC differential from a 5-part to a 6-part differential. There is no additional pre-analytical preparation time and no extra reagents are required to provide the IG% and IG# as part of your routine automated WBC differential.

4. **Are any analysis flags generated when Immature Granulocytes are detected by the analyzer?** – Similar to the other automated WBC differential parameters, user-defined flagging can be utilized on the XN, XE and XT analyzers; the “IG Present” interpretive flag can be generated at levels determined by the laboratory and are set using either the relative (IG%) or absolute (IG#) Immature Granulocyte count. Additionally, on the XE and XT models, when the analyzer cannot clearly differentiate the cell clusters, an IG suspect flag, “IG?,” may be generated to indicate that the automated differential results should be confirmed by manual examination.

5. **Is there quality control material available for the automated IG% and IG#?** – Yes, three levels of XN CHECK™, XN-L CHECK™, e-CHECK™ and e-CHECK™ (XE) QC material are available for the automated IG% and IG#. The Sysmex **Insight™** Quality Assurance Program also provides peer comparison on the automated IG parameters.
6. **Is there a proficiency testing survey available for the automated IG% and IG#?** – Yes, the College of American Pathologists (CAP) proficiency program has a survey for the automated IG. The IG% and IG# are tested on the FH-9 survey.

7. **What are the operational benefits of the automated IG count?** – There is no additional pre-analytical preparation time and no extra reagents required to provide the IG% and IG# as part of the routine automated WBC differential. The automated IG count includes metamyelocytes, myelocytes and promyelocytes, and is a standardized way to enumerate IG counts as compared to manual microscopy. Labs that implement this parameter may choose to reduce the number of manual differentials performed by relying on increased auto-validation of results. Increased productivity and efficiency may be achievable which may allow results to reach clinicians in a timelier manner.

8. **Is there a CPT® code or reimbursement available for the automated IG count?** – No, the automated IG count is part of the routine automated WBC differential so no additional CPT code or reimbursement is available.

*Note: This information is provided as a courtesy for informational purposes only and is not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, reimbursement or billing advice. Health care professionals are responsible for determining appropriate reimbursement policies, including applicable CPT code assignment. Sysmex America, Inc., does not guarantee third-party coverage or payment for products or provide remuneration to customers for claims that are denied by third-party payers.*