Frequently Asked Questions- Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF)

1. **What is the definition of the Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF) parameter?** - The IPF% and IPF# indicate the relative and absolute number of immature platelets in a patient’s peripheral blood. These immature platelets, newly released from the bone marrow, may contain increased amounts of cytoplasmic RNA which allows them to be differentiated from mature platelets. The reticulated platelet count has been used by clinicians as a measure of thrombopoietic activity of the bone marrow.

2. **Has the Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF) parameter been cleared by the FDA?** – Yes, the IPF parameter has been cleared by the FDA on the following analyzers: Sysmex XN-Series™ and Sysmex XE-Series™.

3. **What is the Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF) parameter FDA Intended Use Statement?** – The IPF% (Immature Platelet Fraction) parameter on the Sysmex XN- and XE-Series for in vitro diagnostics is used to enumerate the immature platelet fraction. The XN-Series modules also enumerate the Immature Platelet Count in whole blood (IPF#).

4. **How is the Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF) parameter generated on the analyzer?** – On XN-Series analyzers, the IPF is measured in the PLT-F channel by fluorescence and light scatter detection using an oxazine dye specific for platelet organelles. On XE-Series analyzers, the IPF is derived using the fluorescence intensity signal and forward scattered light signal from the reticulocyte channel using a polymethine dye. There is no additional pre-analytical preparation time and no extra reagents required other than those used for fluorescent optical platelet analysis.

5. **Is there quality control material available for the Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF) parameter?** – Yes, three levels of XN CHECK™, e-CHECK™ and e-CHECK™ (XE) QC material are available for the IPF parameter. The Sysmex
Insight™ Quality Assurance Program also provides peer comparison on the IPF% and IPF# parameters.

6. **Is there a proficiency testing survey available for the IPF parameter?** - Yes, the IPF parameter is tested on the FH-9 survey by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) proficiency testing program.

7. **What are the operational benefits of the IPF parameter?** – It is standardized and easy to perform compared to flow cytometric methods for reticulated platelets. It can be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the measurement does not require especially skilled flow cytometry operators.

8. **What are the limitations of the Immature Platelet Fraction (IPF) parameter?** – The IPF value may not be reliable when the patient’s platelet count is less than 10 x 10^3/µL due to the higher imprecision of the IPF at low counts. Drugs used in patient therapies could also impact the accuracy of the IPF result. The IPF is probably most informative upon initial presentation in patients who are not being treated, and who have more moderate decreases in their platelet counts.

9. **Is there a CPT® code or reimbursement available for the IPF?** – There is a CPT code that can be used for the IPF parameter--85055. This is the same code that is used for reticulated platelets. All billing and reimbursement decisions should be made in conjunction with your coding and billing departments.

*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.*