



A Guide to Duffy null-Associated Neutrophil Count (DANC)

What does it mean for **me** and my care?



What is DANC?

The **Duffy blood group** system is one of many that are used to **classify blood types**.

People with the **Duffy null** blood type often have a lower **absolute neutrophil count (ANC)** than most other people.

This is called **Duffy null-associated neutrophil count (DANC)**.

DANC can be found in **anyone** but is most **common** in people of **African** and **Middle Eastern** ancestries.

What are neutrophils?

Neutrophils are a type of **white blood cell** in your body that are essential for:

Protecting the body against infections.

Coordinating the immune response.

Maintaining tissue health.

ANC is a test that counts the **neutrophils** in your **blood**.

Neutrophils that **live** in **other organs** are **not counted** by this test.



What does **DANC** mean for my health?



DANC is not a disease

Your ANC levels are **healthy for you**.



Your neutrophil number is still normal

Neutrophils are still **present in your body**, but some are **hidden** in the spleen.



You have no increased risk of infection

The hidden neutrophils can still **fight infections normally**.

What issues might I face?

ANC reference ranges

...might **not include** your normal ANC values, flagging your results as **low** or **abnormal**.

Therefore...

Unnecessary tests

...might be ordered by your doctor.

Medications

...might be **reduced or stopped** inappropriately.

Clinical trials

...might **exclude you**, limiting your access to new treatments.



What steps can I take?



Know your numbers

Get to know your **ANC levels**.



Advocate for your care

Share your DANC status with health care providers

Request that treatment plans and clinical trials **take DANC into account**.