SUBJECT: Reticulocyte Count

Principle:

Reticulation with vital stains is a characteristic of very young erythrocytes. The number of reticulocytes in the circulating blood is probably the best easily available index of bone marrow activity.

Specimen Requirements and Processing:

Reticulocyte counts are performed seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

A well-mixed whole blood sample that has been collected in EDTA (lavender top tube) and that is less than 12 hours old is required.