

WHO laboratory manual for the Examination and processing of human semen

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Table A1.1 Lower reference limits (5th centiles and their 95% confidence intervals) for semen characteristics

Parameter	Lower reference limit
Semen volume (ml)	1.5 (1.4–1.7)
Total sperm number (10^6 per ejaculate)	39 (33–46)
Sperm concentration (10^6 per ml)	15 (12–16)
Total motility (PR+NP, %)	40 (38–42)
Progressive motility (PR, %)	32 (31–34)
Vitality (live spermatozoa, %)	58 (55–63)
Sperm morphology (normal forms, %)	4 (3.0–4.0)
<i>Other consensus threshold values</i>	
pH	≥ 7.2
Peroxidase-positive leukocytes (10^6 per ml)	< 1.0
MAR test (motile spermatozoa with bound particles, %)	< 50
Immunobead test (motile spermatozoa with bound beads, %)	< 50
Seminal zinc (μmol /ejaculate)	≥ 2.4
Seminal fructose (μmol /ejaculate)	≥ 13
Seminal neutral glucosidase (mU/ejaculate)	≥ 20