



# Polycythemia Vera □

(- 'vir-ə)

## (Primary Polycythemia)

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 **NOTE: This is the Consumer Version.**  
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**P**olycythemia vera is a disorder of the blood-producing cells of the bone marrow that results in overproduction of red blood cells.

- The cause is not known.
- People may feel tired and weak, light-headed, or short of breath, or develop symptoms caused by blood clots.
- Blood tests are done for diagnosis.
- Phlebotomy is done to remove excess red blood cells, and some people take [aspirin](#) and sometimes other drugs.

In polycythemia vera, the excess of red blood cells increases the volume of blood and makes it thicker, so that it flows less easily through small blood vessels.

Polycythemia vera occurs in about 2 in every 100,000 people. The average age at which the disorder is diagnosed is 60, and it rarely occurs in people younger than 20. More men than women develop polycythemia vera, but the difference is slight.

CAUSES □

SYMPTOMS AND COMPLICATIONS □

DIAGNOSIS □

TREATMENT □

RESOURCES IN THIS ARTICLE

DRUGS MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE

Myeloproliferative Disorders


[Overview of Myeloproliferative Disorders](#)

**Polycythemia Vera**

[Myelofibrosis](#)

[Thrombocythemia](#)

[Secondary Thrombocythemia](#)

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Overview of Myeloproliferative Disorders

WAS THIS PAGE HELPFUL?

Yes No

Myelofibrosis



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