'Modest at best' discriminatory ability for CBC test in infants

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(HealthDay)—Complete blood cell count parameters at commonly used

or optimal thresholds do not offer high accuracy in identifying invasive bacterial infections (IBIs) in febrile infants (≤60 days of age), according to a study published online Sept. 11 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Andrea T. Cruz, M.D., from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and colleagues conducted planned secondary analysis of a prospective observational cohort study that included 4,313 febrile (≥38 C), previously healthy, full-term infants (≤60 days) from 26 emergency departments in the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (from 2008 to 2013). The accuracies of the white blood cell count, absolute neutrophil count, and platelet count were assessed for detecting IBIs.

The researchers found that 2.2 percent had IBIs. Sensitivities were low for common complete blood cell count thresholds: white blood cell count