

the child receiving treatment for cancer is the risk for the development of complications secondary to the treatment.

Infection

The nurse caring for the child with fever must be aware of the signs and symptoms of septic shock, as discussed in [Chapter 23](#). The child with fever who has an absolute neutrophil count (ANC) lower than $500/\text{mm}^3$ is at risk for the following (see [Nursing Care Guidelines](#) box):

- Overwhelming infection
- General malaise
- Invasion of organisms producing secondary infections

Nursing Care Guidelines

Calculating the Absolute Neutrophil Count

1. Determine the total percentage of neutrophils (“polys, or segs,” and “bands”).
2. Multiply white blood cell (WBC) count by percentage of neutrophils.

Example

WBC = $1000/\text{mm}^3$, neutrophils = 7%, nonsegmented neutrophils (bands) = 7%

Step 1: $7\% + 7\% = 14\%$

Step 2: $0.14 \times 1000 = 140/\text{mm}^3$ ANC

ANC, Absolute neutrophil count.

The child with fever is evaluated for potential sites of infection, such as from a needle puncture, mucosal ulceration, minor abrasion, or skin tears (e.g., a hangnail). Although the body may not