

# Preoperative investigation

- The request for pre-operative investigations should be based on:
  - Factors apparent from the clinical assessment
  - The likelihood of asymptomatic abnormalities
  - The severity of the surgery contemplated

## Indications for preoperative investigations

Investigation	Indication
Full blood count	All adult women
	Men over the age of 60 years
	Cardiovascular or haematological disease
Urea & electrolytes	All patients over 60 years
	Cardiovascular and renal disease
	Diabetics
	Patients on steroids, diuretics, ACE inhibitors
ECG	Men over 40 years
	Women over 50 years
	Cardiovascular disease
	Diabetics
Chest X-ray	Cardiovascular and respiratory disease
	Malignancy
	Major thoracic and upper abdominal surgery

- Pre-operative investigations rarely uncover unsuspected medical conditions
- Inefficient as a means of screening for asymptomatic disease
- 5% of patients have abnormalities on investigations not predicted by a clinical assessment
- 0.1% of these investigations ever change the patients management
- 70% of pre-operative investigations could be eliminated without adverse effect