

# What is PRP?

A medical professional will perform a simple blood draw and transfer it into a platelet concentration system device. A short, simple spin efficiently captures a majority of the platelets into a highly concentrated formula. With this technology, your doctor now has access to the hundreds of thousands of platelets and the growth factors they contain in a very small, rich volume.

**This is what is referred to as PRP or Platelet-Rich Plasma.**

## Platelets Matter

### A Patient's Guide to PRP (Platelet-Rich Plasma)

#### Reference

1. Borzini, Perio Mazzucco, Laura. "Tissue regeneration and in loco administration of platelet derivatives: clinical outcome, heterogeneous products, and heterogeneity of the effector mechanisms." Blood components. 45. 1759.

American Society of Hematology <http://www.hematology.org/Patients/Basics/>

American Society of Hematology. Blood basics. Available at: <http://www.hematology.org/Patients/Basics>

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1032.1-US-en-REV15



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# Blood Basics

The blood that runs throughout your body is known as whole blood. And, whole blood actually accounts for 7 to 8 percent of your total body weight. Another way to think of it is an average-sized man is carrying about 12 pints of blood in his body, while an average-sized woman possesses only about 9 pints.

Another fact you might find helpful, the blood that is currently working its way through your circulatory system is a specialized body fluid and can be divided into 4 main components.



## Plasma

An easy way to think of plasma is “The stream in the bloodstream.” As if all the other components were rafts, plasma would be the river in which they are transported throughout the entire body. And oddly enough, plasma just so happens to be about 92% water.



## Red Blood Cells (RBCs)

Sticking with the raft analogy, in the circulatory system, red blood cells simply carry oxygen to the body’s tissues when floating away from the lungs, and then loads up with carbon dioxide in their return trip to the lungs to be exhaled.



## White Blood Cells (WBCs)

White Blood Cells can also be referred to as Leukocytes, a term you might hear during your conversation with your doctor. The primary function of white blood cells is to protect the body from infection and clean up debris.



## Platelets

Platelets are small fragments of cells, literally little tiny plates. They play a significant role in causing the blood to clot. They also contain what are called growth factors, which help regenerate new tissue.<sup>1</sup> When these platelets become activated, growth factors are released.

