

Blood Health

Blood is found in blood vessels that are made up of arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules and veins, which take blood to and from every part of your body. Blood has several key functions that include transport, regulation & protection.

Blood transports oxygen from the lungs to the cells of the body and transports carbon dioxide from the body's cells to the lungs where it is breathed out. Blood carries nutrients, hormones and waste products around the body. Blood regulates the acid-alkali balance of the body and plays an important part in regulating the body temperature. By increasing the amount of blood flowing close to the skin, the blood helps the body to lose heat. Blood also provides protection through both white blood cells that attack and destroy invading bacteria and other pathogens and through platelets that provide clotting and protects the body from losing too much blood after an injury.

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Red Blood Cells

Red blood cells (RBCs), also called erythrocytes, are cells that circulate in the blood and carry oxygen throughout the body. The RBC count totals the number of red blood cells that are present in a person's sample of blood. Changes in the RBC count usually mirror changes in the hematocrit and hemoglobin level. When the values of the RBC count, hematocrit, and hemoglobin decrease below the established reference interval, the person is said to be anemic. When the RBC and hemoglobin values increase above the normal range, the person is said to be polycythemic. Too few RBCs can affect the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues, while too many RBCs can make the blood thicker, causing slowed blood flow and related problems.

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