

Blood platelets:

- It is protoplasmic disks that are found in Mammalian blood. (Lower vertebrates have spindle-shaped cells named Thrombocytes). It is pale & homogenous on the peripheral part.
- The shape is oval to round, often stellate.
- It's non-nucleated, very small (2-4 μ) diameter & smaller than RBC (Erythrocytes).
- Platelets are arises as a detached tips of protoplasmic process extending from the cytoplasm of Giant cells Megakaryocytes, of Red bone marrow.
- The number is about 200000 - 400000 per Cubic mm.
- The life span of platelets is about 3-5 days.
- Each platelets produces Thromboplastin, which starts the Coagulation of blood.

Function: Agglutinated platelets are associated with Blood clotting / Coagulation / clumping both inside and outside of Bvs. (Blood vessel)

Function of the Blood.

- The Blood is responsible to carry many important functions.
- Blood carries digested food materials to different parts of body.
- It carries hormones & vitamins.
- Carries O₂ gas - Blood carries O₂ gas in the form of Oxyhaemoglobin to tissues & release this O₂ there to be used for the Oxidation of Glucose.
- Transport CO₂ gas - CO₂ gas is formed due to oxidation of Glucose in the cells. This CO₂ gas combines with Hb to form HbCO₂ (Carboxyhaemoglobin), which on reaching Lungs is separated from Haemoglobin & expelled out with Expiration. Thus blood helps in expelling CO₂ gas from the body.
- Blood carries Excretory products, like urea to the Kidney from where it is expelled out with urine.

- Destruction of Bacteria - The Leucocytes, kill Bacteria & other harmful substances.
- Blood helps to cure a disease, when some toxins are formed in a disease, blood forms Antitoxin & thus help to recover the patient.
- Temperature Control - The temperature released by Liver & Muscles is carried by blood to different parts of body so that a uniform temperature is maintained by through out the body.
- Heal Wounds - The substances required to heal a wound is supplied by the blood to the healing place.
- Clotting - When a bleed is cut, blood comes out but it stops after sometimes due to the formation of a clot. Thus blood checks outflow of blood due to a cut on the body.
- Immunity - The blood is protective in nature. Immunity means resistance of our body to any disease or diseases.
- Maintenance of water contents of the tissue - The blood maintains a constant interchange of the fluid across the wall of the blood capillaries.

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