

**ABO blood groups**

There are four main blood groups in the ABO blood group system: A, B, AB or O, which are inherited from both parents.

**arteries**

Blood vessels that transport blood containing oxygen away from the heart to the rest of the body.

**blood donor**

A person who gives their blood to be used for transfusions and other medical treatments.

**blood groups**

Blood can be grouped according to special markers (antigens) found on the surface of red blood cells. There are 33 different blood group systems; the ABO blood groups are one of the most important.

**blood pressure**

The force exerted by the heart when pumping blood.

**blood vessels**

Tubes that help to transport blood around the body. There are three main types of blood vessels: the arteries, the veins and the capillaries.

**capillaries**

Very small blood vessels, that connect arteries to veins and deliver oxygen to all parts of the body.

**circulation**

The movement of blood around the body.

**heart**

A fist-sized muscular organ which pumps blood through blood vessels around the body.

**intravenous**

The process of adding a liquid substance directly into someone's vein.

## platelet

Blood cells which help the blood to clot. Their job is to clump together, blocking holes and stopping bleeding.

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## plasma

A pale yellow liquid that forms the greatest proportion of blood. It carries and supports the blood cells and platelets as well as carrying hormones, nutrients and other proteins.

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## red blood cells

Blood cells that bind to and carry oxygen from the lungs and deliver it to the body's organs and tissues.

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## transfusion

A medical procedure where blood is given intravenously to a person (a recipient) who needs it following surgery or injury.

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## vein

Blood vessels that typically transport deoxygenated blood from capillaries in the body's organs and tissues back to the heart.

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## white blood cells

Blood cells that circulate in the blood, helping to fight infections from bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

