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## Bone Marrow Anatomy

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### Overview

Bone marrow is the soft, spongy, gelatinous tissue found in the hollow spaces in the interior of bones.<sup>[1]</sup> The average weight of this tissue is about 4% of the total body weight, or 2.6 kg in an adult weighing 65 kg. Progenitor cell (stem cell) lines in the bone marrow produce new blood cells and stromal cells. Bone marrow is also an important part of the lymphatic system.

Bone marrow consists of stem cells, which are large, "primitive," undifferentiated cells supported by fibrous tissue called stroma. There are 2 main types of stem cells and, therefore, the bone marrow consists of 2 types of cellular tissue. One type of stem cell is involved in producing blood cells and the other is involved in producing stromal cells, which are responsible for the supporting stroma.

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