



Home → Health Topics → Platelet Disorders

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/plateletdisorders.html>

Platelet Disorders

Also called: Thrombocyte disorders

Platelets, also known as thrombocytes, are blood cells. They form in your bone marrow, a sponge-like tissue in your bones. Platelets play a major role in blood clotting. Normally, when one of your blood vessels is injured, you start to bleed. Your platelets will clot (clump together) to plug the hole in the blood vessel and stop the bleeding. You can have different problems with your platelets:

- If your blood has a **low number of platelets**, it is called thrombocytopenia. This can put you at risk for mild to serious bleeding [<https://medlineplus.gov/bleeding.html>]. The bleeding could be external or internal. There can be various causes. If the problem is mild, you may not need treatment. For more serious cases, you may need medicines or **blood or platelet transfusions** [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodtransfusionanddonation.html>].
- If your blood has **too many platelets**, you may have a higher risk of blood clots [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodclots.html>].
 - When the cause is unknown, this is called thrombocythemia. It is rare. You may not need treatment if there are no signs or symptoms. In other cases, people who have it may need treatment with medicines or procedures.
 - If another disease or condition is causing the high platelet count, it is thrombocytosis. The treatment and outlook for thrombocytosis depends on what is causing it.
- Another possible problem is that your **platelets do not work as they should**. For example, in von Willebrand Disease, your platelets cannot stick together or cannot attach to blood vessel walls. This can cause excessive bleeding. There are different types of von Willebrand Disease; treatment depends on which type you have.

NIH: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Start Here

- What Are Platelet Disorders? [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/platelet-disorders>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/trastornos-plaquetarios>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Blood Tests [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/blood-tests>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/analisis-de-sangre>]
- MPV Blood Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/mpv-blood-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-sangre-de-vpm/>]
- Platelet Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/platelet-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-plaquetas/>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Splenectomy [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/splenectomy/about/pac-20395066?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/splenectomy/about/pac-20395066?p=1>]
- Treatments for Blood Disorders [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/blood-bone-marrow-treatments>]
 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)

Related Issues

- What Are Bleeding Disorders [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/bleeding-disorders>]

 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/trastornos-hemorragicos>]

Specifics

- Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/idiopathic-thrombocytopenic-purpura/symptoms-causes/syc-20352325?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/trombocitopenia-inmunitaria>]
- Inherited Platelet Disorders [<https://elearning.wfh.org/elearning-centres/inherited-platelet-disorders/>] (World Federation of Hemophilia)
- Petechiae [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/petechiae/basics/definition/SYM-20050724?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/symptoms/petechiae/basics/definition/sym-20050724?p=1>]
- Thrombocythemia and Thrombocytosis [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/thrombocythemia-thrombocytosis>]
 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/trombocitopenia-trombocitosis>]
- Thrombocytopenia [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/thrombocytopenia>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
- Thrombocytosis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/thrombocytosis/symptoms-causes/syc-20378315?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/thrombocytosis/symptoms-causes/syc-20378315?p=1>]
- Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/thrombotic-thrombocytopenic-purpura>]
 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/purpura-trombotica-trombocitopenica>]

Genetics

- Atypical hemolytic-uremic syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/atypical-hemolytic-uremic-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Bernard-Soulier syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/bernard-soulier-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Dyserythropoietic anemia and thrombocytopenia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/dyserythropoietic-anemia-and-thrombocytopenia>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Essential thrombocythemia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/essential-thrombocythemia>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Glanzmann thrombasthenia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/glanzmann-thrombasthenia>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Gray platelet syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/gray-platelet-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hermansky-pudlak-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Immune thrombocytopenia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/immune-thrombocytopenia>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Jacobsen syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/jacobsen-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)

- MYH9-related disorder: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/myh9-related-disorder>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/thrombotic-thrombocytopenic-purpura>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Von Willebrand disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/von-willebrand-disease>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- X-linked thrombocytopenia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/x-linked-thrombocytopenia>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Videos and Tutorials

- Blood clotting [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000011.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000011.htm>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Blood Platelet Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Blood+Platelet+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Thrombocytopenia [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Thrombocytopenia%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: von Willebrand Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22von+Willebrand+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Selected PEAR1 and MRVI1 Gene Polymorphisms in Patients with Migraine and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40696876>]
- Article: Diagnosis of Inherited Platelet Disorders: Clinical Evaluation and Functional and Molecular... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40563486>]
- Article: Application of multigene panel testing for bleeding, thrombotic, and platelet disorders... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40488813>]
- Platelet Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Blood+Platelet+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Find a Hematologist [<https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/find-a-hematologist>] (American Society of Hematology)
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Immune Thrombocytopenia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/immune-thrombocytopenia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/immune-thrombocytopenia.html>]
- von Willebrand Disease [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/vwd.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/vwd.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Bleeding time [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003656.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003656.htm>]

- Congenital platelet function defects [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000582.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000582.htm>]
- Drug-induced thrombocytopenia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000556.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000556.htm>]
- Essential thrombocythemia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000543.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000543.htm>]
- Glanzmann thrombasthenia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001305.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001305.htm>]
- Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000535.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000535.htm>]
- Partial thromboplastin time (PTT) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003653.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003653.htm>]
- Platelet aggregation test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003669.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003669.htm>]
- Purpura [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003232.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003232.htm>]
- Thrombocytopenia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000586.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000586.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Acquired platelet function defect](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000546.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000546.htm>]

[Bleeding time](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003656.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003656.htm>]

[Blood clotting](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000011.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000011.htm>]

[Congenital platelet function defects](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000582.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000582.htm>]

[Drug-induced thrombocytopenia](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000556.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000556.htm>]

[Essential thrombocythemia](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000543.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000543.htm>]

[Factor VIII assay](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003678.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003678.htm>]

[Glanzmann thrombasthenia](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001305.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001305.htm>]

[Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura \(ITP\)](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000535.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000535.htm>]

[Partial thromboplastin time \(PTT\)](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003653.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003653.htm>]

[Platelet aggregation test](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003669.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003669.htm>]

[Platelet antibodies blood test](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003552.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003552.htm>]

Platelet count [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003647.htm>]

Purpura [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003232.htm>]

Thrombocytopenia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000586.htm>]

Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000552.htm>]

Von Willebrand disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000544.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Bleeding Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/bleedingdisorders.html>]

Blood Clots [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodclots.html>]

Blood Count Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodcounttests.html>]

Blood Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/blooddisorders.html>]

Blood Thinners [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodthinners.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Platelet Disorders* is the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](#)

[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our [quality guidelines](#)

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>].

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)