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# The Cardiovascular System: Blood



# The Functions of Blood

## Blood Overview:

Provides a system for *rapid* transport within the body

Nutrients

Hormones

Waste products

Respiratory gases

Cells

Heat

# The Functions of Blood

Blood Functions Include:

Transport of cells and compounds

Regulate pH and electrolytes of  
*interstitial fluids*

Limit blood loss through damaged  
vessels

Defend against pathogens, toxins

Absorb, distribute heat as part of  
temperature regulation

# The Composition of Blood

## Blood Collection and Analysis

Whole blood can be *fractionated* into:

*Plasma* (liquid component)

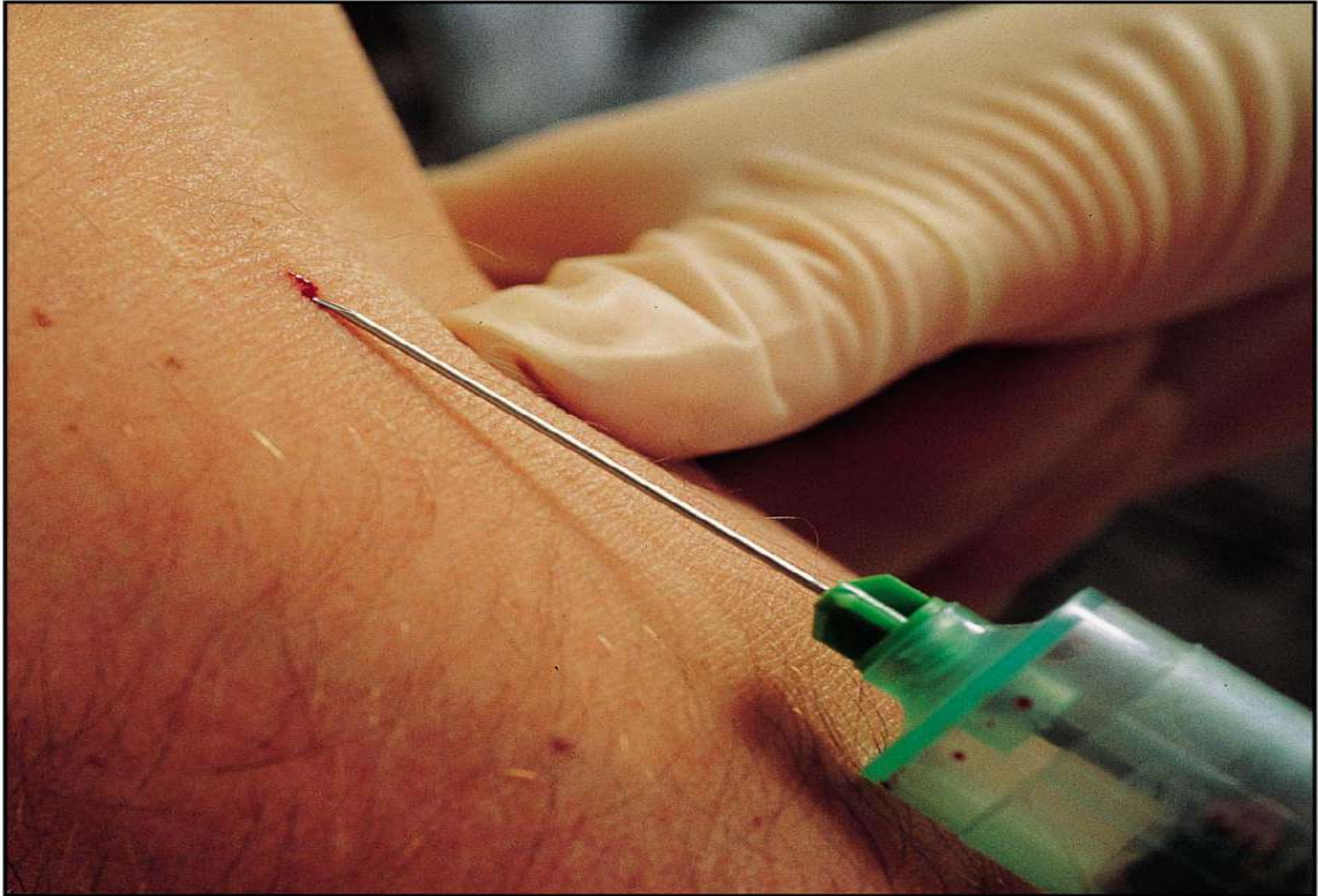
*Formed elements* (cellular components)

Red blood cells (RBCs)

White blood cells (WBCs)

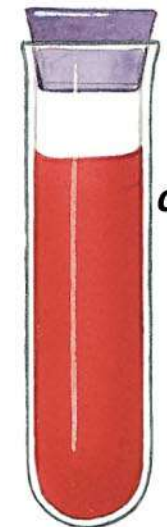
Platelets

# Blood Sample



**(a) Taking a blood sample**

# The Composition of Whole Blood



Sample of whole blood

consists of

Plasma (55%)

PLASMA COMPOSITION	
Plasma proteins	7%
Other solutes	1%
Water	92%
Transports organic and inorganic molecules, formed elements, and heat	

(b) Components of plasma

PLASMA PROTEINS	
Albumins (60%)	Major contributors to osmotic pressure of plasma; transport lipids, steroid hormones
Globulins (35%)	Transport ions, hormones, lipids; immune function
Fibrinogen (4%)	Essential component of clotting system; can be converted to insoluble fibrin
Regulatory proteins (<1%)	Enzymes, proenzymes, hormones

OTHER SOLUTES	
Electrolytes	Normal extracellular fluid ion composition essential for vital cellular activities. Examples: $\text{Na}^+$ , $\text{K}^+$ , $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , $\text{Cl}^-$ , $\text{HCO}_3^-$
Organic nutrients	Used for ATP production, growth, and maintenance of cells. Examples: Fatty acids, glucose, amino acids
Organic wastes	Carried to sites of breakdown or excretion. Examples: Urea, bilirubin

# Blood Plasma

## Plasma Basics

Makes up about 55% of whole blood

*Water* makes up about 92% of plasma

Has more protein and oxygen than  
interstitial fluid

Plasma proteins fall in three classes

*Albumins*

*Globulins*

*Fibrinogen*

# Formed Elements

*Hemopoiesis*—The cellular pathways by which the formed elements are produced.

*Stem cells (hemocytoblasts)*—Cells that divide and mature to produce all three classes of formed elements.



# Blood Plasma

## Key Note:

Approximately half the volume of whole blood consists of cells and cell products (the *formed elements*). Plasma resembles interstitial fluid but contains a unique mixture of proteins not found in other extracellular fluids.

# Formed Elements

## Red Blood Cells:

Also called, *erythrocytes* or *RBCs*

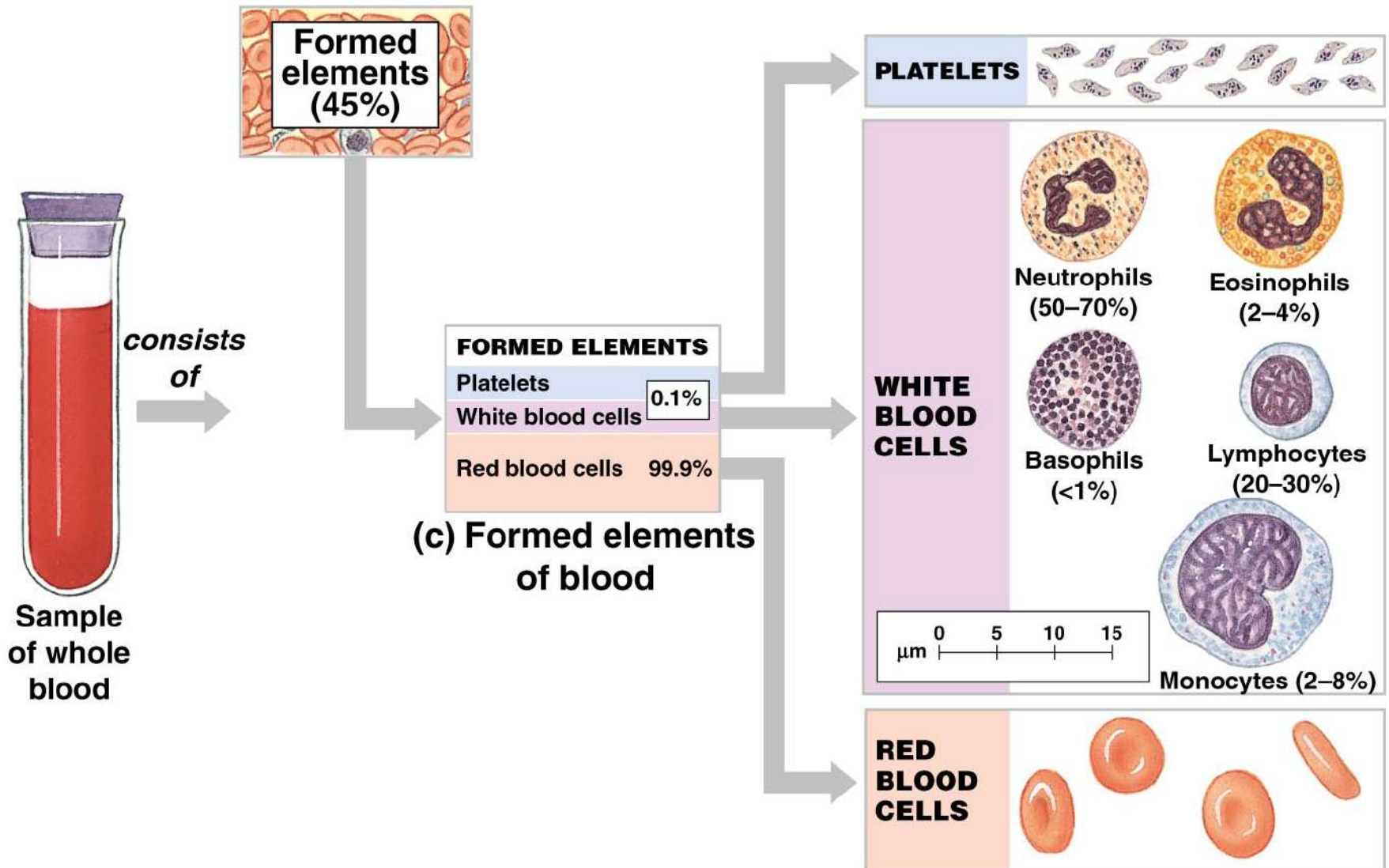
Make up about 45% of whole blood volume

Make up 99.9% of the formed elements

# Formed Elements

*Hematocrit*—Percentage of whole blood volume taken up by formed elements (mostly RBCs). In clinical shorthand, it's called, the “*crit.*”

# Formed Elements



# Formed Elements

## Properties of RBCs

Transport oxygen and carbon dioxide  
in blood stream

Have large surface to volume ratio

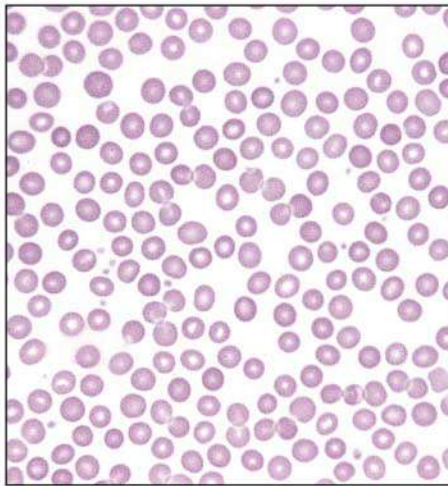
Speeds up gas loading/unloading

Lack most organelles

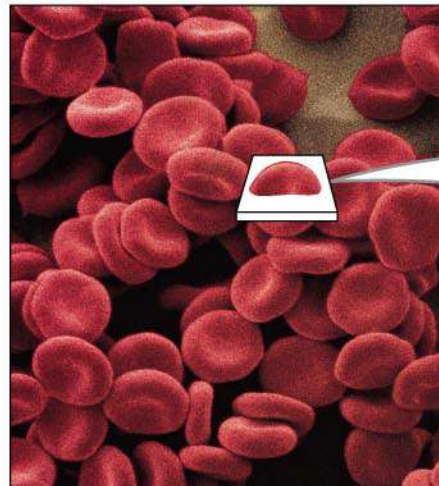
Makes more room for *hemoglobin*

Degenerate after about 120 days

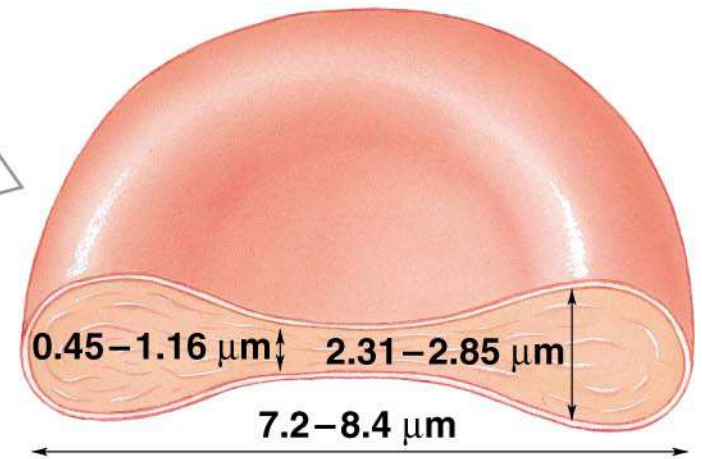
# The Anatomy of Red Blood Cells



(a)



(b)



(c)

# Formed Elements

## Red Blood Cell Composition:

*Hemoglobin* makes up 95% of RBC protein

Globular protein composed of four *subunits*

Each subunit contains:

A *globin* protein chain

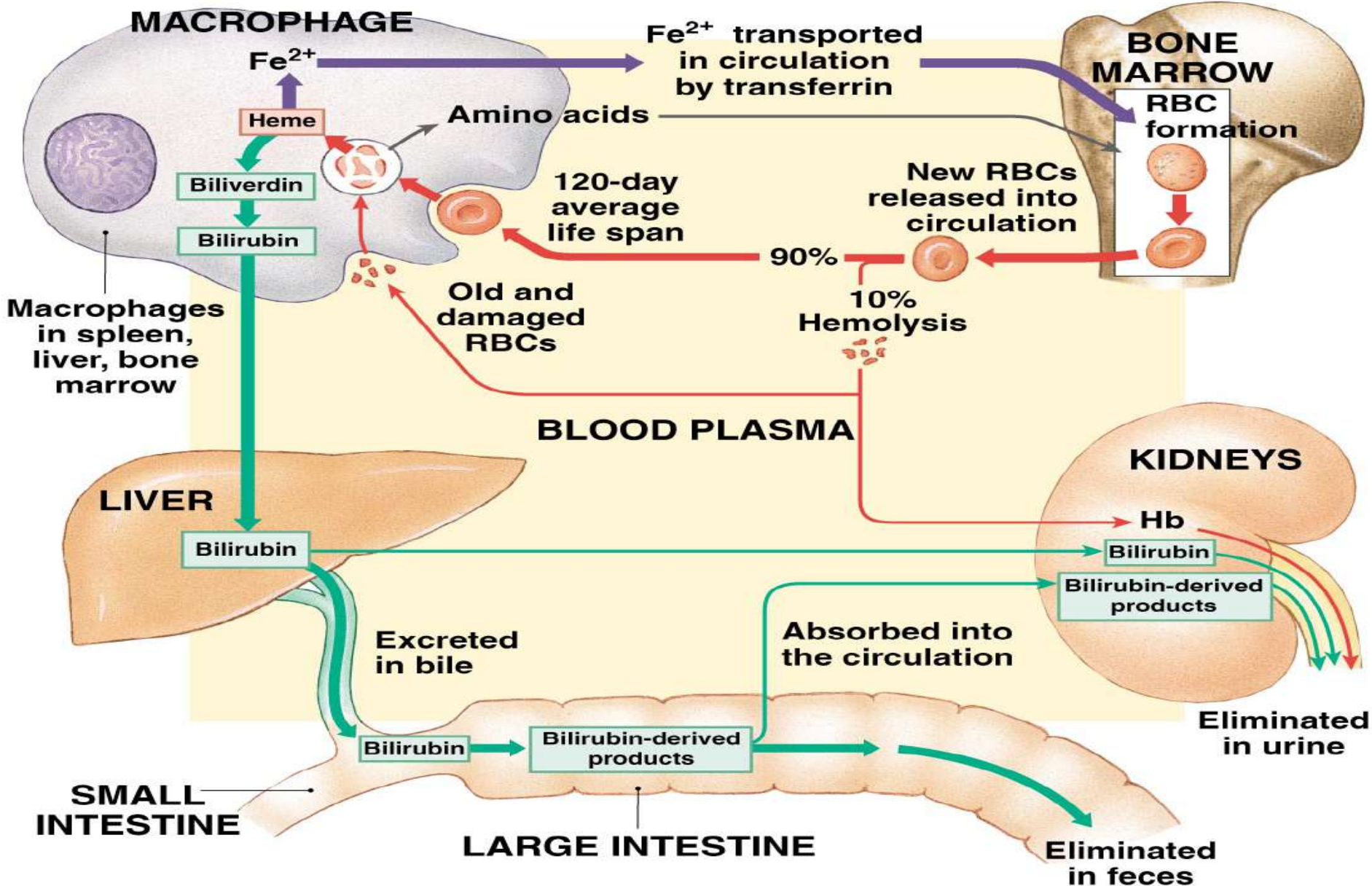
A molecule of *heme*

An atom of *iron*

A binding site for one oxygen molecule

*Phagocytes* recycle hemoglobin from damaged or dead RBCs

# Hemoglobin Recycling





# Formed Elements

*Erythropoiesis*—Process for formation of red blood cells

Occurs mainly in the bone marrow

Stimulated by *erythropoietin (EPO)*

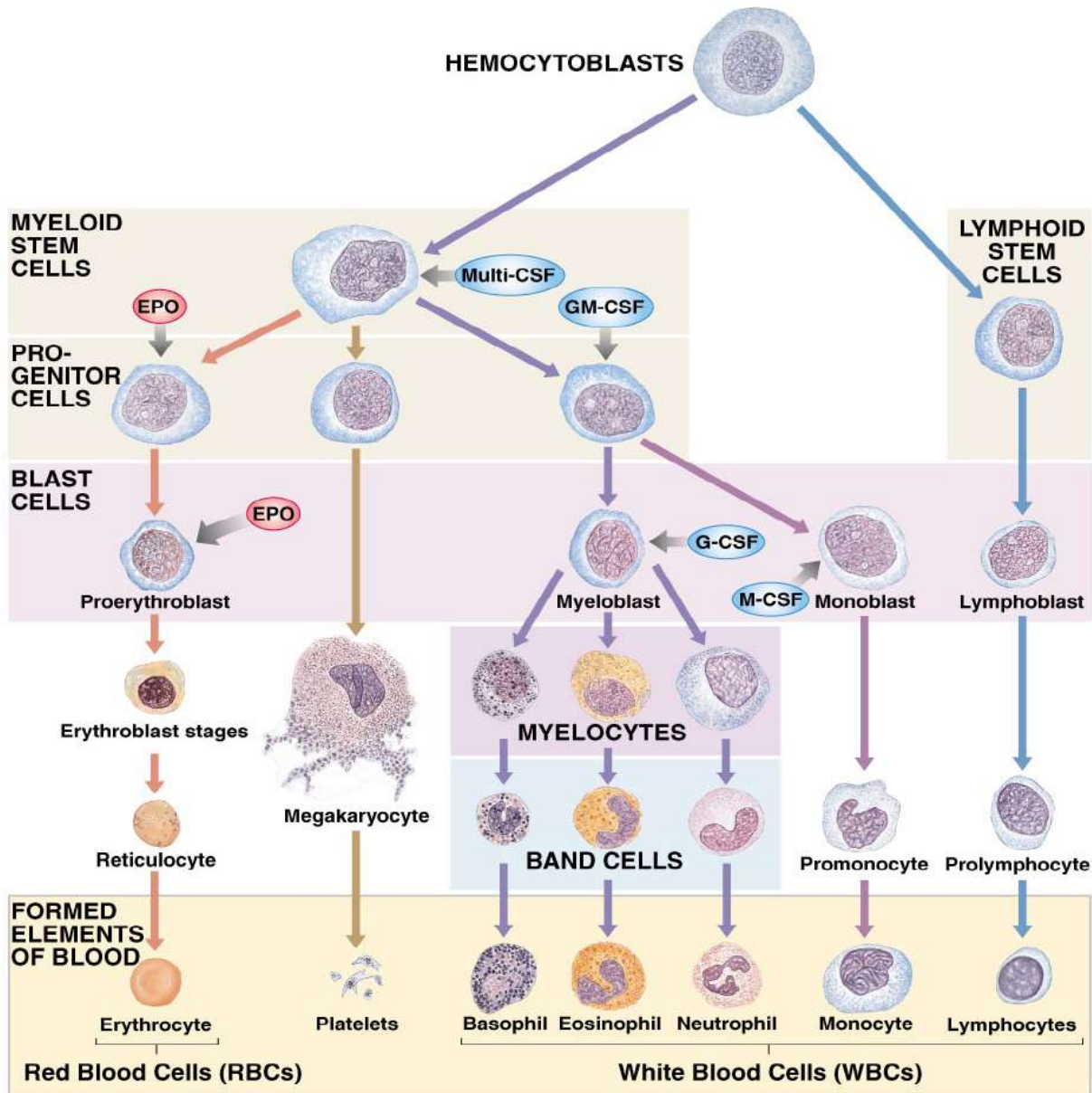
*EPO* increases when oxygen levels are low

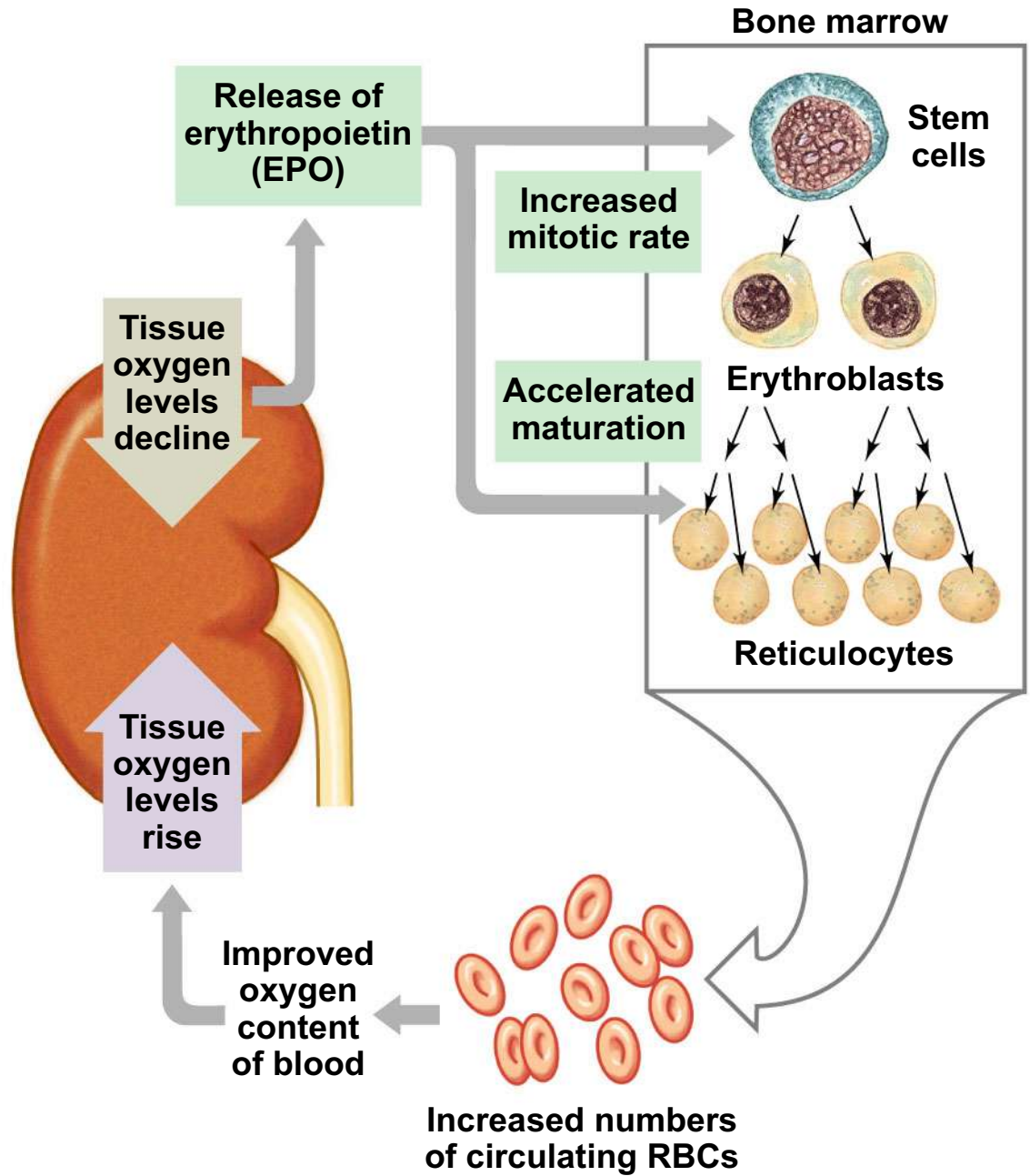
Development stages include:

*Erythroblasts*

*Reticulocytes* (after nucleus is expelled)

# Differentiation of RBCs, Platelets, and WBCs





# Formed Elements

## Key Note:

Red blood cells (RBCs) are the most numerous cells in the body. They circulate for about four months before being recycled; millions are produced each *second*. The hemoglobin inside transports oxygen from the lungs to peripheral tissues and carbon dioxide from the tissues to the lungs.

# Formed Elements

## Blood Type

Determined by presence or absence of specific *antigens (agglutinogens)* on outside *surface* of RBC

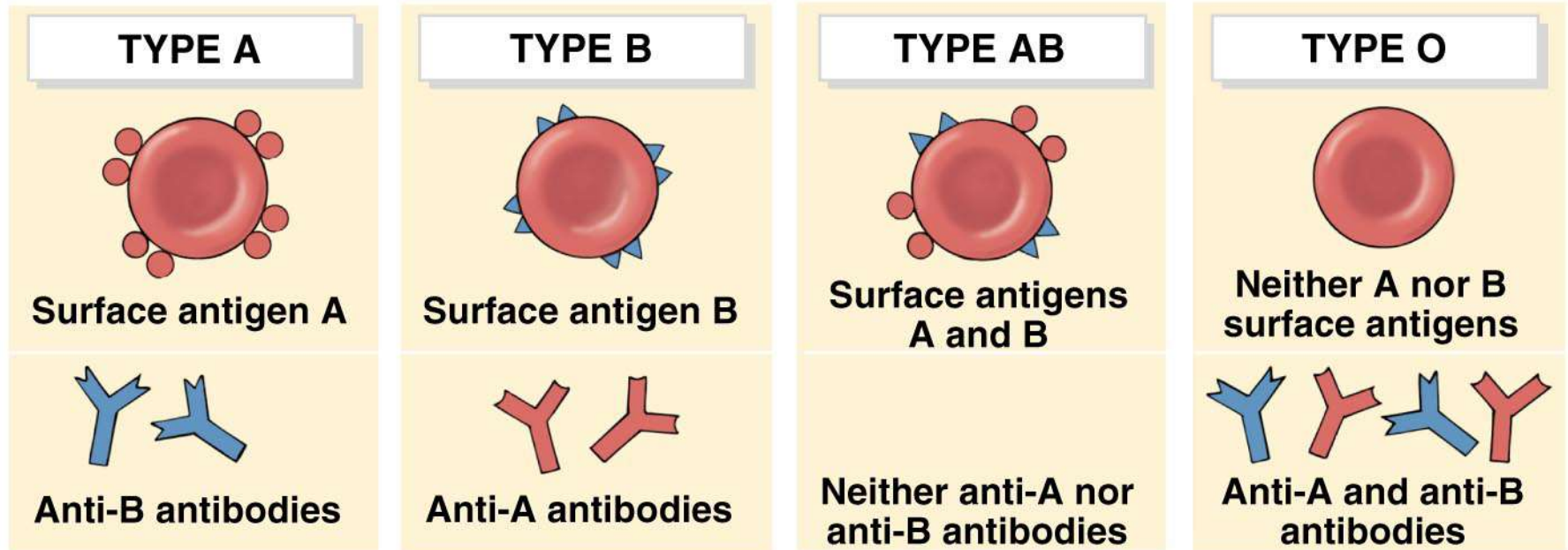
Antigens are called *A, B, and Rh*

*Antibodies (agglutinins)* in plasma react with *foreign* antigens on RBCs

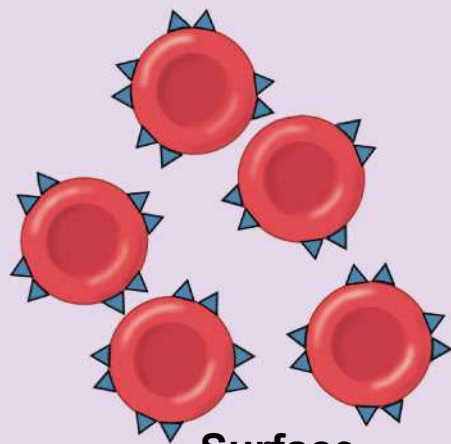
RBCs clump and break open

Anti-Rh antibody made after exposure to Rh-positive blood cells

# Blood Types and Cross-Reactions



(a)

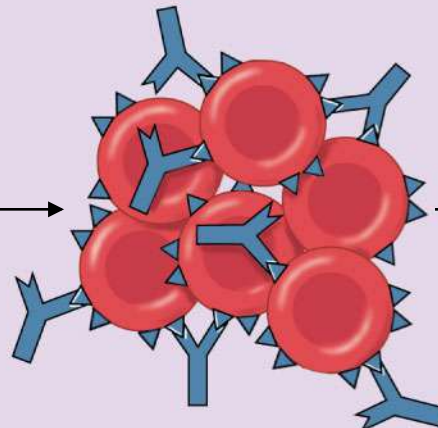


**Surface antigens** +

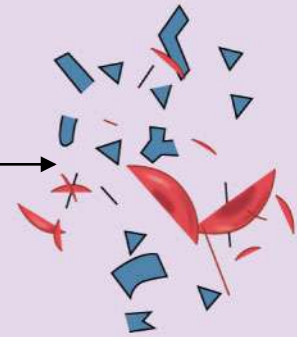
+



**Opposing antibodies**



**Agglutination (clumping) and hemolysis**



# Formed Elements

## White Blood Cells (WBCs)

Also called, *leukocytes*

Defend the body against:

- Pathogens

- Toxins

- Abnormal cells

- Damaged cells



# Formed Elements

## WBC Properties

Perform *diapedesis*—Push between cells to cross blood vessel walls and enter the tissues

Exhibit *chemotaxis*—Move toward specific chemicals released by bacteria or injured cells

Consist of two groups:

*Granulocytes* (cytoplasmic granules)

*Agranulocytes* (no granules)

# Formed Elements

## Three Types of *Granulocytes*

*Neutrophils*

50–70% of circulating WBCs

*Phagocytic*

*Eosinophils*

Less common

*Phagocytic*

Attracted to foreign proteins

*Basophils*

Release *histamine*

Promote *inflammation*

# Formed Elements

## Two Types of *Agranulocytes*

### *Lymphocytes*

Found mostly in *lymphatic system*

Provide *specific* defenses

Attack foreign cells

Produce *antibodies*

Destroy abnormal (cancer) cells

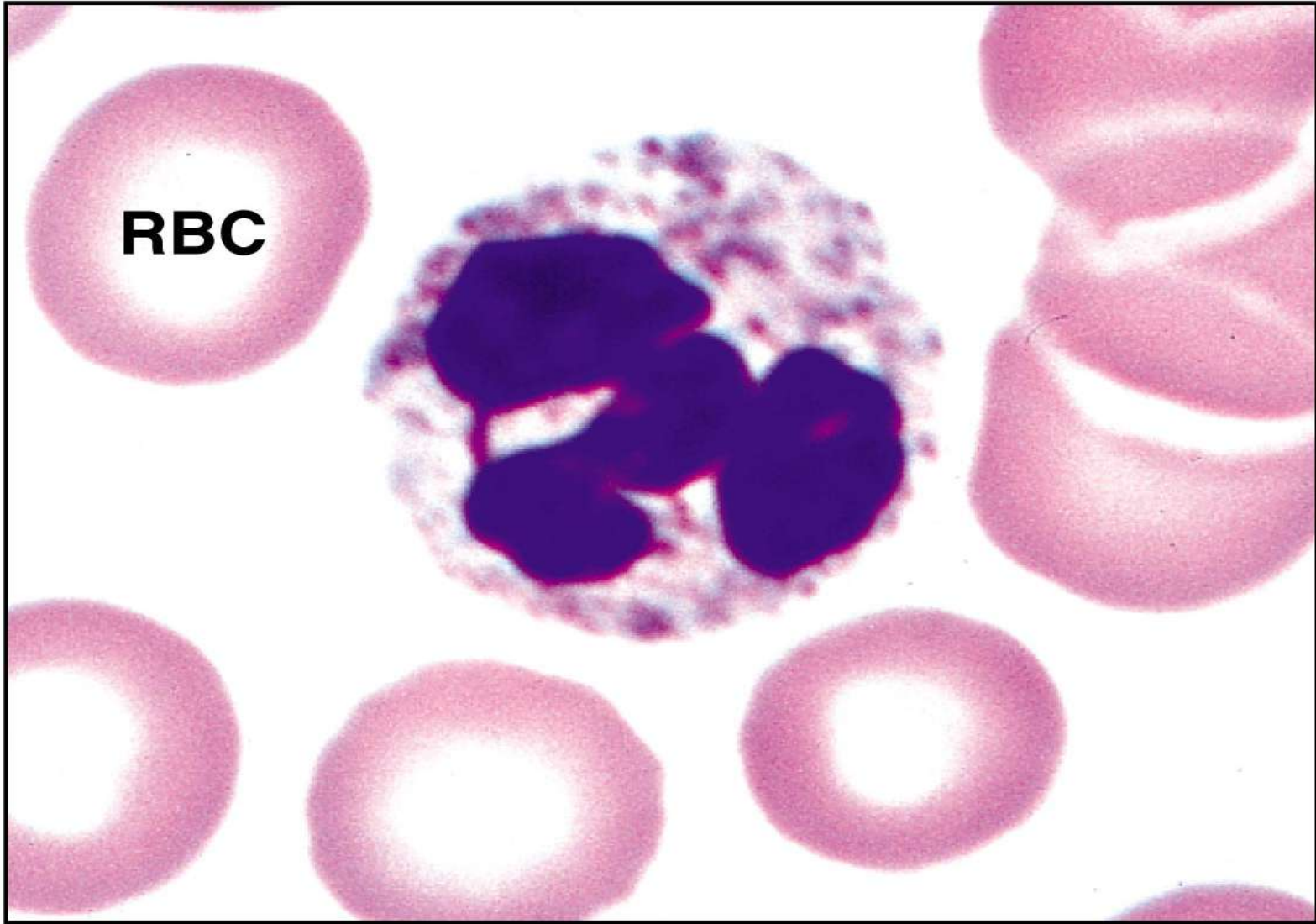
### *Monocytes*

Migrate into tissues

Become *macrophages*

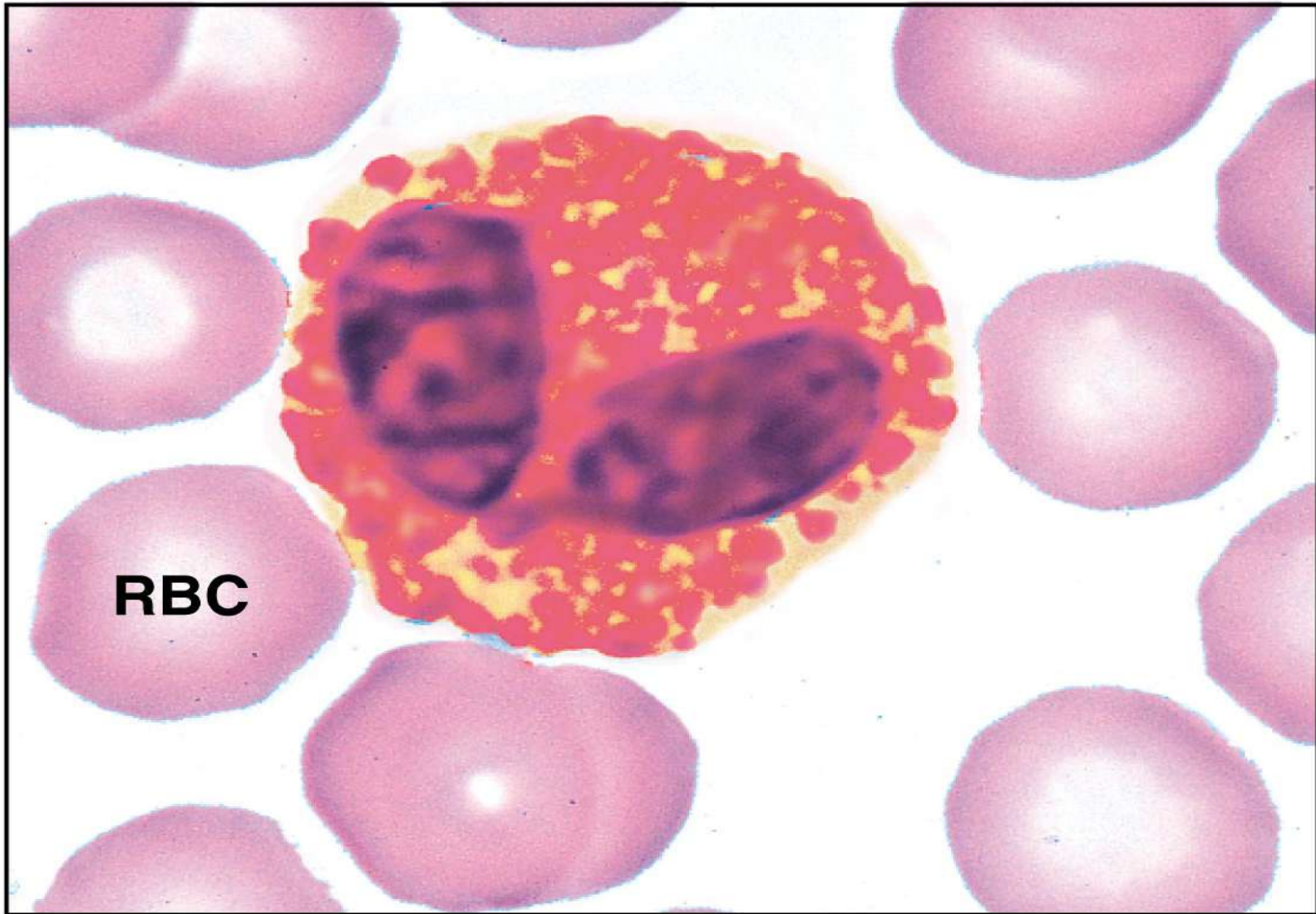
Live as *phagocytic amoeba*

# White Blood Cells



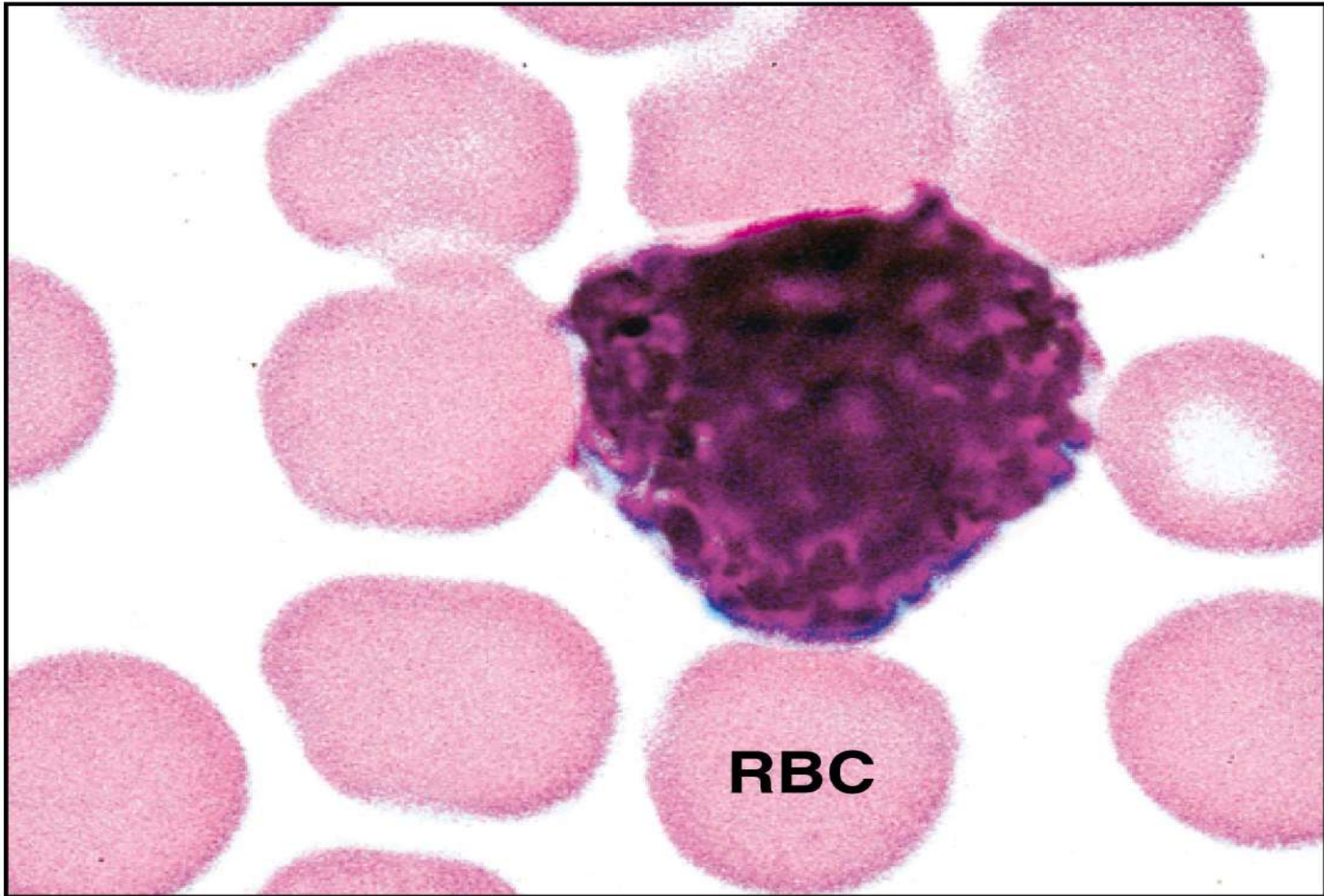
**(a) Neutrophil**

# White Blood Cells



**(b) Eosinophil**

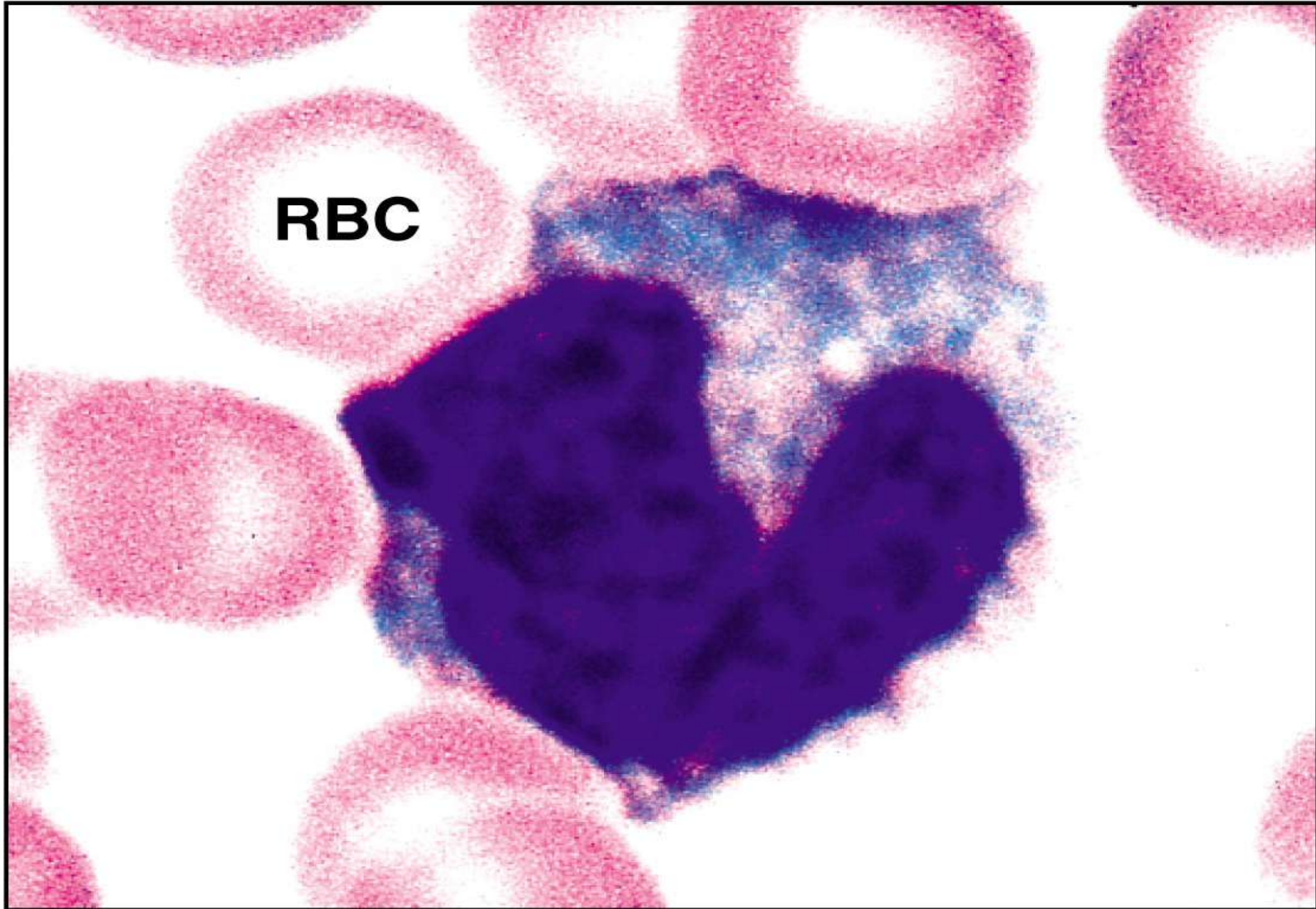
# White Blood Cells



**RBC**

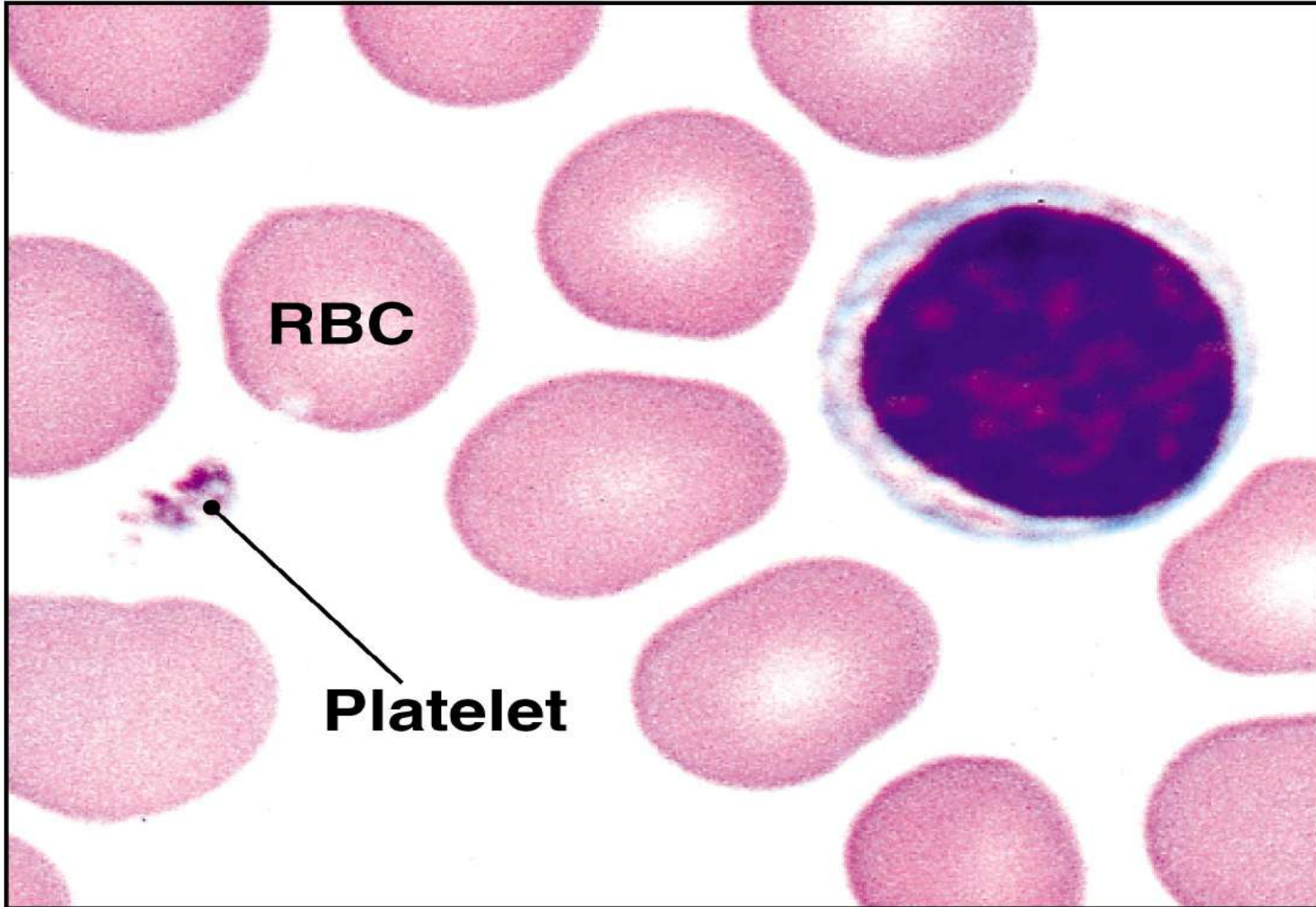
**(c) Basophil**

# White Blood Cells



**(d) Monocyte**

# White Blood Cells



**(e) Lymphocyte**



# Formed Elements

## Production of WBCs in Bone Marrow

*Myeloid stem cells* produce:

Granulocytes (three types)

Monocytes (future macrophages)

*Lymphoid stem cells* produce lymphocytes

Process called, *lymphopoiesis*

Lymphocytes enter blood

Migrate to lymphoid tissues

# Formed Elements

## Regulation of WBC Maturation

*Colony-stimulating factors* (CSFs)—

Hormones which regulate certain WBC populations

Four CSFs are known

CSFs target *stem cell lines*

Several CSFs used with cancer patients with bone marrow suppression

# Formed Elements

## Regulation of WBC Maturation

Regulation of lymphocyte maturation is poorly understood

*Thymosins* (hormones in *thymus* gland) trigger *T cells* to develop

# Formed Elements

## Key Note:

RBCs outnumber WBCs by a 1000 to 1. WBCs defend the body against infection, foreign cells, or toxins, and assist in the repair of damaged tissues. Most numerous are neutrophils, which engulf bacteria, and lymphocytes, which are responsible for the specific immune defenses.

# Platelets

## Platelets:

- Produced in the bone marrow
- Released from *megakaryocytes* as cytoplasmic fragments into the blood
- Essential to clotting process

# Hemostasis

*Hemostasis*—Processes that stop the loss of blood from a damaged vessel. Largely dependent on platelets and soluble proteins (clotting factors).

# Hemostasis

Three phases in Hemostasis:

*Vascular phase*

Local contraction of injured vessel

*Platelet phase*

Platelets stick to damaged vessel wall

*Coagulation phase*

*Clotting factors* in plasma form *blood clot*

# Hemostasis

## The Clotting Process

*Coagulation* pathways require an external trigger

### *Extrinsic pathway*

Triggered by factors released by injured endothelial cells or peripheral tissues

### *Intrinsic pathway*

Triggered by factors released by platelets stuck to vessel wall

Both pathways lead to *common pathway*

*Thrombin* converts soluble *fibrinogen* subunits to an insoluble polymer, *fibrin*



# Hemostasis

## The Structure of a Blood Clot

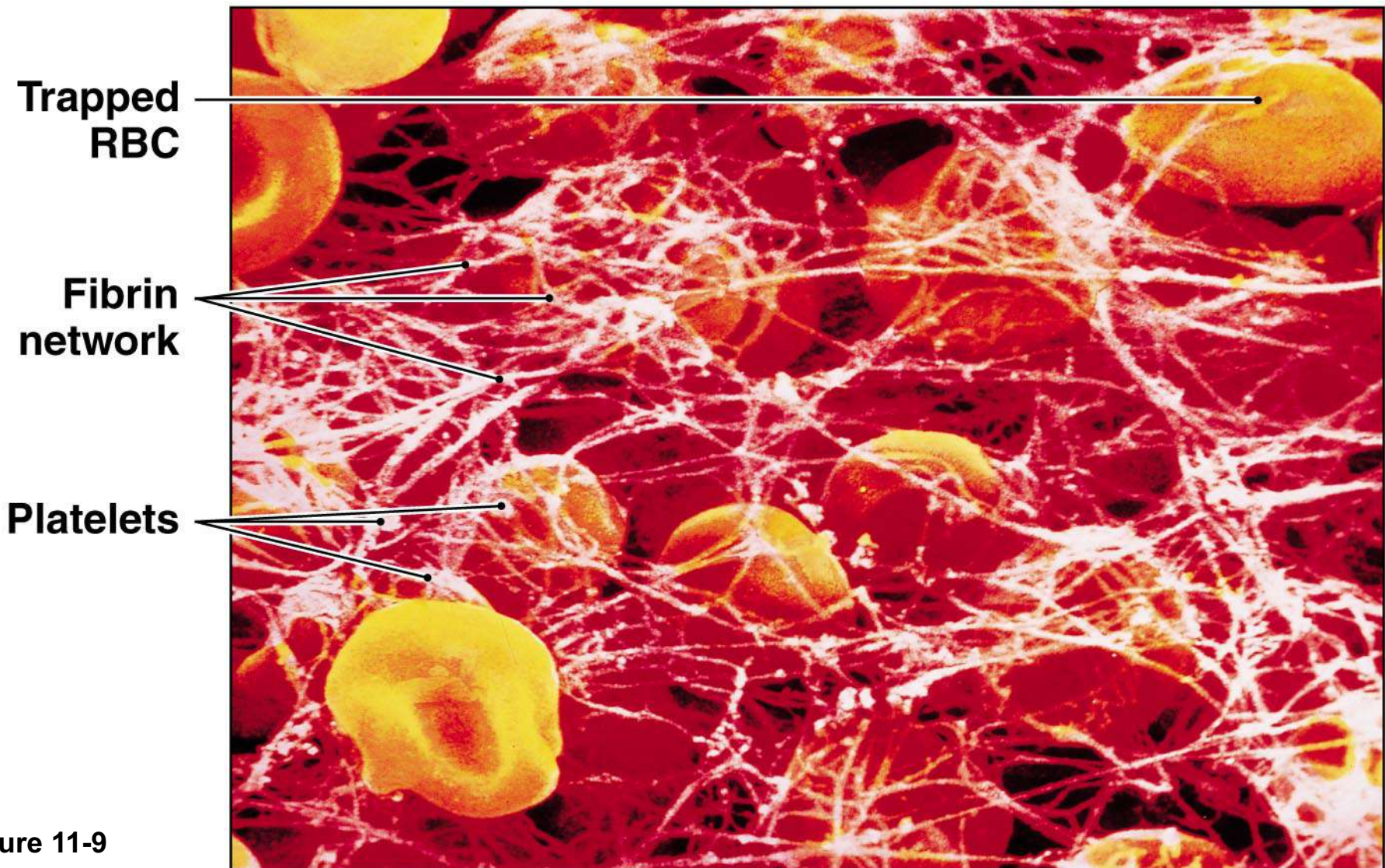
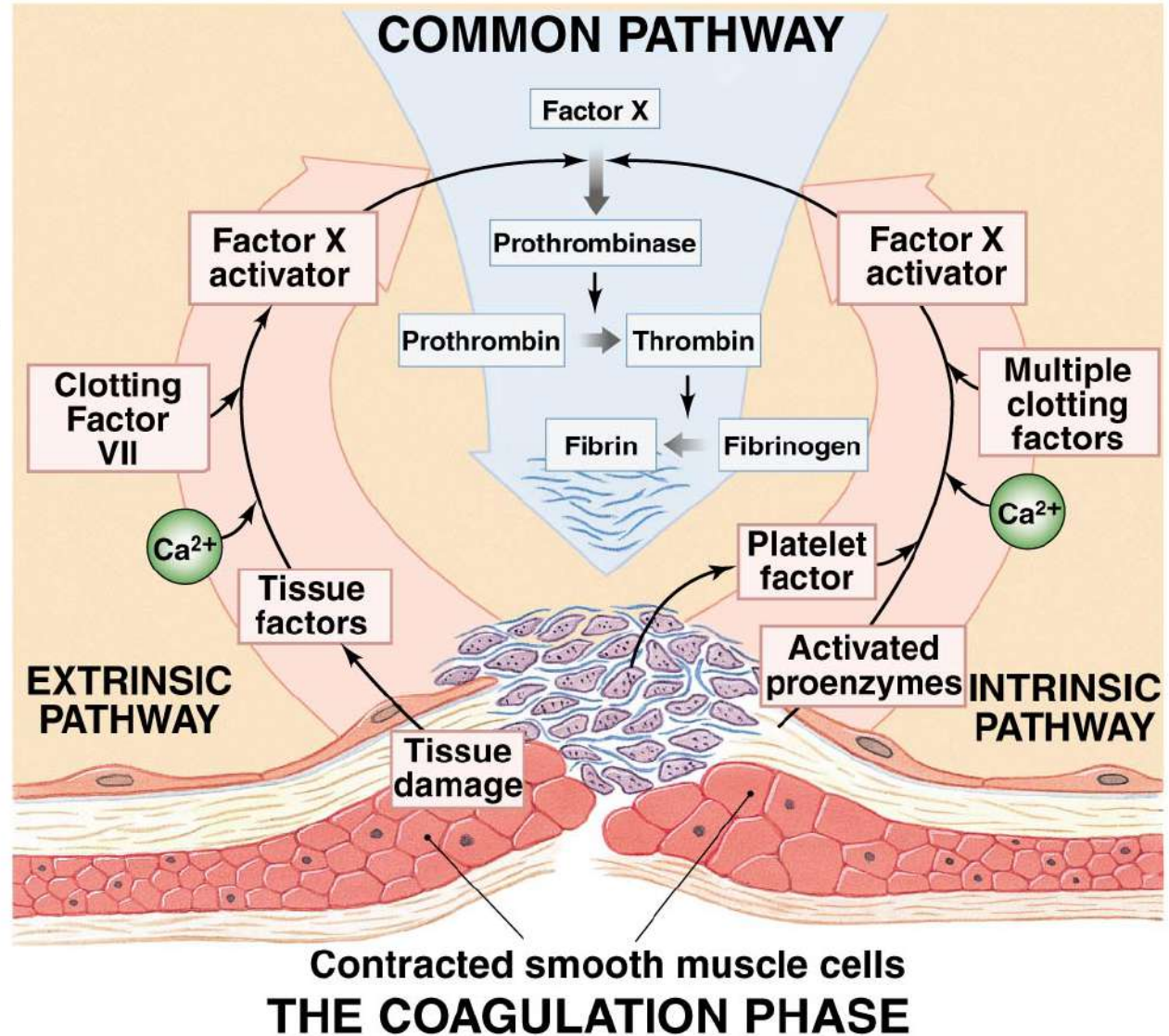
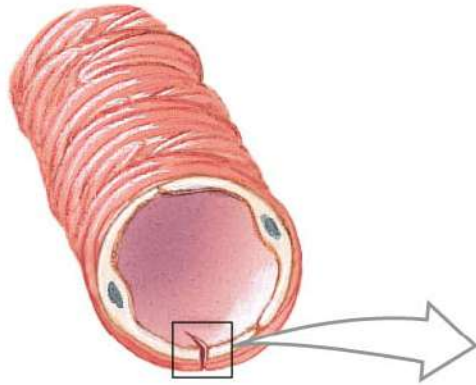


Figure 11-9

# Coagulation Phase of Hemostasis



# Hemostasis

## Clot Retraction and Removal

Clot *retracts* because platelets *contract*

Pulls broken vessel closed

Clot gradually dissolves

Called, *fibrinolysis*

*Plasmin*, an enzyme derived from

*plasminogen* in the plasma, cuts *fibrin* apart  
like a molecular scissors

# Hemostasis

## Key Note:

Platelets coordinate hemostasis (blood clotting). If they are activated by abnormal changes in their surroundings, platelets release clotting factors and other chemicals. Hemostasis is a complex cascade that produces a fibrous patch that is subsequently remodeled and then removed as repair proceeds.