

What's in your blood

10ml

PLASMA (55%)

- > A fluid composed of about 92% water, 7% vital proteins, including clotting factors and immunoglobulins, and 1% mineral salts, sugars, fats, hormones and vitamins.

5ml

BUFFY COAT (< 1%)

WHITE BLOOD CELLS

- > Defends the body against diseases, but does not serve this function in donated blood, except for a type of white blood cell called granulocyte.
- > Granulocytes are separated out from donated blood by a process called apheresis, and are used to treat infections that do not respond to antibiotic therapy.

PLATELETS

- > Also known as thrombocytes.
- > Stops or prevents bleeding.

RED BLOOD CELLS (45%)

- > Also known as erythrocytes.
- > Transports oxygen and carbon dioxide between the lungs and the rest of the body.