

Blood is often described as the “river of life” because it transports substances needed by the body. It has a fluid portion called plasma and a formed portion made up of the red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Doctors use blood as a diagnostic tool that can help them identify what may be happening with a patient.

Study the information in the chart below and match the patient with the correct condition.

Patient	Red Blood Cells ( $\times 10^9/\text{mL}$ blood)	White Blood Cells ( $\times 10^6/\text{mL}$ blood)	Platelets ( $\times 10^8/\text{mL}$ blood)
1 (normal)	5	7	3
2	3.5	12	2
3	3.7	7	3
4	7	7	3
5	5	8	1

1. Which two patients may be having difficulty with blood clotting? How do you know?

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2. Which two patients might appear tired and lack energy? How do you know?

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3. Which patient is likely fighting off an infection? How do you know?

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