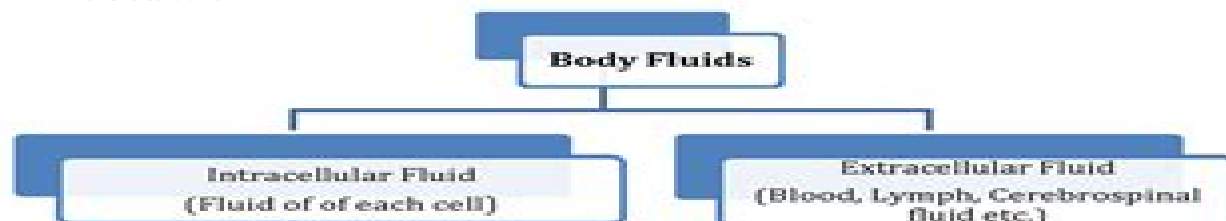

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CHAPTER-18 BODY FLUIDS AND CIRCULATION

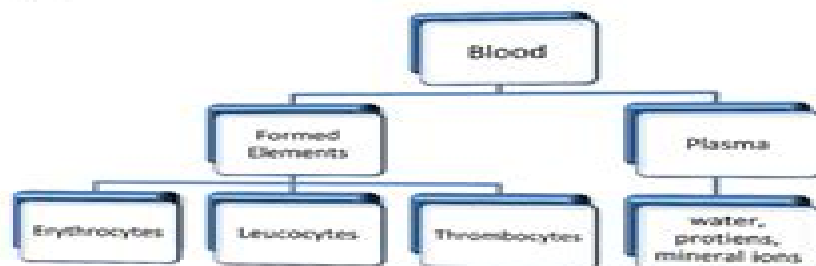
Body fluids are the medium of transport of nutrients, oxygen and other important substance in the body.



Blood is the most commonly used body fluid in most of the higher organisms. Lymph also transports certain substances like protein and fats.

Blood

Blood is a mobile connective tissue composed of a fluid, plasma and the cells, the blood corpuscles. It forms about 30-35% of the extracellular fluid. It is slightly alkaline fluid having pH 7.4.



- **Plasma** is straw coloured viscous fluid that constitutes 55% of blood volume. It consists of 90-92% water, 6-8% protein (fibrinogens, albumins and globulins), glucose, amino acids and small amount of minerals like Na^+ , Ca^{++} , Cl^- etc.
- Erythrocytes, leucocytes and platelets are collectively called **formed elements**.
- **Erythrocytes** are most abundant cells in human body. Total blood count of RBCs is 5-5.5 million, which is slightly less in females due to menstruation. It is formed in bone marrow. Nucleus is absent in mammalian RBCs having biconcave in shape.
- Every 100 ml of blood contain 12-16 gm. of haemoglobin. They have life span of 120 days. They are destroyed in spleen(graveyard of RBCs)
- **Leucocytes** or WBCs are colourless due to absence of haemoglobin. 6000-8000 of WBCs are present in each ml. of blood.

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