Help Your Body Heal Itself

Healing after an injury relies on a well-orchestrated and complex series of events where proteins in the blood act as messengers to regulate the entire process. Many proteins involved in the healing process are derived from platelets—small, colorless cell fragments that circulate freely through the bloodstream.

When an injury occurs, platelets become activated and rush to gather at the damaged site where they release beneficial proteins called growth factors that stimulate tissue repair. This is the beginning of the healing process.

Interest in using a patient’s own blood components delivered directly to the site of injury to accelerate healing has been growing for many years. New research and developing technology are continuing to expand the applications of this therapy for orthopedic procedures involving soft-tissue injuries to muscles, tendons, and ligaments as well as osteoarthritis.
What is platelet-rich plasma (PRP)?

The increased levels of growth factors released from PRP have the potential to stimulate the repair process and speed healing. PRP is a highly concentrated solution of a patient’s own platelets that is injected to a site of injury where it may induce the release of growth factors and stimulate rapid healing.1

How does the PRP process work?

Your health care provider will withdraw a small amount of blood from a vein in your arm. This sample is placed in a centrifuge, where it undergoes a high-speed spinning process that separates and concentrates the platelets and other beneficial growth factors from other blood components. The entire PRP production process is usually done in less than 30 minutes.
Am I a candidate for PRP treatment?

Speak with your physician or health care provider and ask if this treatment is right for you. Your provider will perform an examination to decide if this therapy will benefit you. If you are taking anti-inflammatory medications or blood thinners, your physician may temporarily discontinue the use of these until your treatment has taken place.

What are the risks associated with PRP treatment?

Platelet therapy uses your body’s own natural properties to treat your injury. Side effects from PRP injections are very uncommon, but please talk with your provider at length to discuss the risks and benefits associated with this treatment option.
Will my insurance cover this procedure?

While PRP treatments have been around for many years, many insurance companies still consider the treatment experimental and deny coverage. Your health care provider’s office will contact your insurance company to confirm whether they will cover your procedure. If your insurance will not cover PRP treatment, your provider may discuss other options with you.

For more information, please discuss with your health care provider or go to www.orthoillustrated.com to learn more about the process.
The Double-Syringe (ACP) System is used to facilitate the safe and rapid preparation of autologous platelet-rich-plasma (PRP) from a small sample of blood at the patient’s point of care. The PRP can be mixed with autograft and allograft bone prior to application to an orthopedic surgical site as deemed necessary by the clinical use requirements.

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Reference


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