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so many fake sites. this is the first one which worked! Many thanks

**THE CHEMISTRY OF BLOOD**

Blood is a complex chemical mixture. The chemicals in it dictate its colour, and some also contribute to its characteristic, slightly metallic odour. Here we take a look at some of these chemicals, as well as examining some of the differences that determine a person's blood type.

**THE COLOUR OF BLOOD**

Haemoglobin is a protein found in blood, built up of smaller sub-units containing 'heme'. These hemes contain iron, and their structure gives our blood its red colour when oxygenated. Deoxygenated blood is a red colour - not blue!

Blood itself due to its binding capability turns blue, as haemoglobin is oxidized to methaemoglobin.

**THE SMELL OF BLOOD**

The compound that gives human blood its characteristic metallic odour is iron 4,5-gyranol 2-dermal. The metallic smell of fresh and blood coming from contact with skin is largely due to iron 4,5-gyranol 2-dermal produced due to the reaction between oxidized iron lipids and the iron in haemoglobin.

**BLOOD TYPES**

Blood type is determined by the presence of antigens. Antigens are found on red blood cell surfaces. They can lead to antibodies and stimulate an immune response. Antibodies are proteins in blood plasma that help fight infections.

**APPROXIMATE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF BLOOD TYPES**

Group	Antigen	Antibody
A	A	B
B	B	A
AB	A, B	None
O	None	A, B

The antibodies in blood plasma contain determine what blood can be received in transfusions. Someone with blood containing A antibodies cannot be given blood containing A antigens. O can be given to all as it contains no A or B antigens.

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**Chemistry Of The Blood**