

- Abnormalities of platelets can be congenital or acquired.
- **Thrombocytosis** → **HIGH** platelet count.
- **Thrombocytopenia** → **LOW** platelet count.
- **Platelet Transfusions:**
 - Platelets can be separated from whole blood to create a package of **platelets** and **plasma**.
 - Usually transfused over 30 minutes.
 - A platelet transfusion is indicated if:
 - 1) Patient is bleeding and has low platelets.
 - 2) For surgery or childbirth.
 - 3) Platelet count of less than $10 \times 10^9/l$.
 - Platelet transfusions should not be used in thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, heparin-induced or post-transfusion purpura.
 - Sometimes patients may have allergic reaction to transfusion or infection may be transmitted.
- **Immune Thrombocytopenia:**
 - This is a condition in which there is **immune destruction** of the platelets.
 - It affects **females** more than males.
 - Usually idiopathic although can be due to **drugs, SLE, HIV, lymphoma** and **Evan's Syndrome**.
 - Usually **acute presentation** in children (85%) and **chronic** in adults.
 - TREATMENT:
 - 1) **Steroids**.