

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEMATOLOGY**

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**INTRODUCTION TO HEMATOLOGY**

**Definitions**

**Hematology:** Branch of medical science concerned with the study of diseases and disorders of blood and blood forming organs.

- Blood is made up of a cellular component and fluid component
- Cell biology is also used in hematology especially in malignancies like cancer
- Immunological markers in blood cells is also looked at so is genetics and cytogenetics as used to analyze molecular basis of cells

Hematology is organized into;

- Routine hematological tests like blood counts and Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)
- Special hematology which are specialized tests done in special occasions e.g. bone marrow examination; this is normally a very painful process
- Hemostasis and thrombosis; looks at blood clotting and the clotting disorders
- Blood transfusion and transplantation

**Aims and Objectives**

- Knowledge of blood and blood forming organs and functions in health
- Knowledge of diseases of blood and blood forming organs
- Interpretation of hematologic data and giving clinical pathologic clarification based on the values and obtained and the normal expected values of a normal individual
- Blood transfusion process and products
- Exposure of practical tests on blood and blood properties