



Platelet-Rich Plasma Treatment (PRP)

What is PRP Treatment? In order to understand how Platelet-rich plasma treatment helps an injured patient, it is important to understand how platelets function.

When tissue is injured, an inflammatory response is triggered. Inflammation brings on heat and swelling in and around the injured area. Inflammation stops the spread of infection but tissues cannot heal until inflammation is “switched” off. Platelets are responsible for blood clotting after injury as well as signaling the white blood cells to the injured area to clean up dead and injured cells. Blood platelets also release growth factors that are directly responsible for tissue regeneration. Platelets switch the inflammation process off and stimulate healing by producing tissue growth factors that stimulate new blood vessel growth for tissue repair.

What is the PRP Procedure?

Platelet-rich plasma comes from blood that is drawn from the patient and run through special equipment that separates the blood’s solids and plasma. By doing this, the platelet concentration level is much richer than regular blood. The red and white blood cells are separated from the platelet rich part of the plasma as well. Plasma containing this concentrated level of platelets provides an abundance growth factors which are the proteins in the body that stimulate cells in the tendon, ligament, muscle, or joint to start the healing process. When PRP is injected into damaged tendons or ligaments, bone or cells in the tissue—along with new cells circulating in the blood—are stimulated to bring even more new cells to the injured site. This way growth factors coming from platelets begin connective tissue healing, bone regeneration, repair, promote development of new blood vessels, and stimulate the wound healing process. PRP treatment is recommended for injuries involving tendons, ligaments, muscles, joints and in conjunction with conditions such as osteoarthritis, hip and elbow dysplasia, and fractures.

Because the patient’s own blood is used to make this plasma there is no risk of rejection or disease transmission. Ultimately, by enhancing the body’s natural healing capacity, PRP treatment enables the patient a rapid, efficient return to health.