

Overview of Platelet Counts Before and After Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) Preparation

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ABSTRACT

Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) is widely utilized in various clinical settings for tissue repair, particularly in skin rejuvenation, scar management, and wound healing. This study aimed to evaluate the profile of platelet counts both prior to and following the PRP preparation process. Whole blood samples were collected from eligible female participants and platelet levels analyzed using a hematology analyzer. The findings revealed a four-fold rise in the mean platelet count, increasing from a baseline of 190.6×10^3 cells/ μ L to 781.1×10^3 cells/ μ L after preparation. The study concluded that baseline platelet levels in whole blood are directly proportional to the final platelet concentration in PRP.

INTRODUCTION

Rapid advancements in science and technology have permeated numerous disciplines, including healthcare. These developments play a crucial role in delivering optimal medical care, particularly regarding therapeutic interventions for patient healing. One such development in the medical field utilizing human blood for healing is the use of Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) (Yuliandari, 2021). PRP has been applied across various medical disciplines, including the treatment of thrombocytopenia (Selima et al., 2023), knee osteoarthritis (OA) therapy (Rothrauff et al., 2026), regenerative responses in the pancreas (Simarmata et al., 2021), and tissue repair in dental and oral surgeries (Poetri et al., 2022).

PRP is defined as a blood product containing a high abundance of platelets derived from venous blood centrifugation (Yuliandari et al., 2022). PRP possesses a higher platelet concentration in plasma than the normal platelets circulating in the body. Physiologically, the systemic platelet count is between 150,000 and 400,000/ μ L, whereas PRP typically presents a count of 1,000,000 platelets/ μ L in 5 mL volume of plasma (Anzani, 2020; Lestari et al., 2023). According to Legiawati et al. (2023), the platelet concentration in PRP is 2- to 5-fold higher than that of venous blood.

The platelets contained in PRP play a crucial role in healing and repairing damaged tissues (Wu et al., 2025). Platelets function to secrete inflammatory factors and release various growth factors, such as Epidermal Growth Factor (EGF), Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1), Transforming Growth Factor- β (TGF- β), Interleukin-1 (IL-1), Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF), Platelet-Derived Growth Factor (PDGF), as well as chemokines and cytokines required for tissue regeneration. These factors serve as the initiator of cell healing and the restoration of damaged tissues (Husak et al., 2025).

The success of the PRP healing process is influenced by the platelet count contained within it. Platelet count significantly affects the quality of PRP because the higher the platelet count, the greater the release of growth factors (Yuliandari, 2021). The clinical application of PRP is linked to the platelet count to ensure optimal healing outcomes. However, observations in the field reveal that some researchers and clinicians prepare PRP without prior assessment of platelet counts. Consequently, PRP is often administered directly to patients without knowledge of its content, making it impossible to ascertain whether the platelet count is high or low. The objective of this research is to evaluate and compare platelet counts prior to and following the Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) preparation process, and to ensure that the preparation method successfully attains the optimal platelet concentration necessary for effective therapeutic applications.

MATERIALS/METHOD

This study was conducted at the Hematology Laboratory of Akademi Kesehatan John Paul II Pekanbaru. It was an observational study with a cross-sectional design. The samples consisted of whole blood obtained from female students who met the inclusion criteria: aged 21–25 years, non-smokers, not currently menstruating, not taking medication, and with no history of infectious diseases within the last month or disorders affecting platelet levels (Syuhada et al., 2021).

Twenty respondents fulfilling the inclusion criteria were enrolled in this study. Initially, a phlebotomist collected venous blood samples from the respondents into vacuum tubes containing ACD-A anticoagulant. The whole blood platelet count was determined before initiating the PRP preparation. Then, the plasma and buffy coat layers were transferred to a tube without anticoagulant and centrifuged again for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm. The upper two-thirds of the volume were discarded, and the remaining portion was identified as PRP (Yuliandari, 2021). Following this, the platelet count of the resulting PRP was analyzed. A hematology analyzer was utilized for all platelet count measurements.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study utilized 20 whole blood samples obtained from respondents who met the inclusion criteria. One of the inclusion criteria was females who were not currently menstruating. Santoso et al. (2022) stated that platelet counts during menstruation are affected by platelet production, which plays a role in sealing damaged blood vessels and stopping menstrual bleeding. Rokkam et al. (2024) and Prasetyo et al. (2020) noted that thrombocytosis can occur due to triggering conditions such as acute infection, acute hemorrhage, blood loss, hemolysis, allergic reactions, acute inflammation, renal disorders, splenectomy, cancer, leukemia, and certain medications; therefore, platelets in these conditions are not used for PRP preparation. The mean platelet count data before and after PRP preparation in this study are presented in Figure 1.

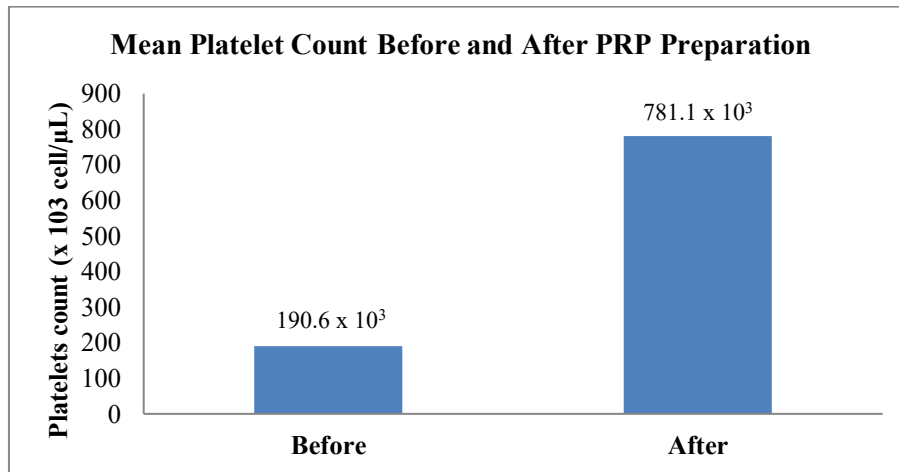


Figure 1. Mean platelet count before and after PRP Preparation

Based on the results prior to PRP preparation, the respondents' mean platelet count was within the normal range, specifically 190.6×10^3 cells/ μL . National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (2025), state that the general normal platelet count in blood ranges from 150×10^3 to 400×10^3 cells/ μL . In this study, the mean platelet count following PRP preparation was 781.1×10^3 cells/ μL . According to Sharara et al. (2021), the platelet count after PRP preparation can increase by up to a maximum of 10-fold compared to the count in whole blood. The standard for platelet count in PRP is defined as $\geq 600 \times 10^3$ cells/ μL (Rafika et al., 2021).

Analysis of the mean platelet count before and after PRP preparation revealed a 4-fold increase in the mean count following preparation. This finding is consistent with Legiawati et al. (2023), who stated that platelet counts in PRP are 2- to 5-fold higher compared to those in whole blood. Similarly, Fajaryani et al. (2020) reported a significant difference between whole blood platelet counts (299×10^3 cells/ μL) and PRP platelet counts (593×10^3 cells/ μL).

Based on the study findings, there is a positive correlation where higher baseline platelet counts in whole blood result in higher platelet concentrations in PRP. This observation aligns with Wardhani (2021), who analyzed whole blood platelet counts of 196×10^3 cells/ μL , 224×10^3 cells/ μL , and 294×10^3 cells/ μL before proceeding with PRP preparation. Two preparation techniques were employed: the Nugraha method and the Matsui Tabata method. The Nugraha method produced PRP platelet counts of 454×10^3 , $1,002 \times 10^3$, and $1,582 \times 10^3$ cells/ μL , respectively, whereas the Matsui Tabata method resulted in counts of 442×10^3 , 574×10^3 , and $1,198 \times 10^3$ cells/ μL , respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this study demonstrates a four-fold rise in platelet count following PRP preparation, increasing from a baseline of 190.6×10^3 cells/ μL to 781.1×10^3 cells/ μL .

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