

# Basophil

Basophils are a type of [white blood cell](#). Basophils are the least common type of [granulocyte](#), representing about 0.5% to 1% of circulating white blood cells.

However, they are the largest type of [granulocyte](#). They are responsible for inflammatory reactions during [immune response](#), as well as in the formation of acute and chronic allergic diseases, including anaphylaxis, [asthma](#), atopic dermatitis and hay fever.

They also produce compounds that co-ordinate immune responses, including [histamine](#) and [serotonin](#) that induce [inflammation](#), heparin that prevents blood clotting, although there are less than that found in mast cell granules.

Mast cells were once thought to be basophils that migrated from blood into their resident tissues (connective tissue), but they are now known to be different types of cells.

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