











# The ABO Blood Groups, Genetics and Clinical Importance

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The ABO blood group system has been discovered by an Austrian scientist called Karl Landsteiner, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work. However it was later discovered that a Czech scientist called Jan Janský had first expressed the classification of human blood into four groups but his discovery remained in relative obscurity as the communications were not well developed in that period of time. Studies revealed there to be 4 major ABO blood groups: A, B, AB and O. The ABO groups system is a typical example of genetic polymorphism where changes on the human genome introducing slightly different genes giving rise to these different types of blood groups which are nothing more than antigens on the plasma surface of the erythrocytes.

	Group A	Group B	Group AB	Group O
Red blood cell type				
Antibodies in plasma	 Anti-B	 Anti-A	None	 Anti-A and Anti-B
Antigens in red blood cell	 A antigen	 B antigen	 A and B antigens	None

ABO blood group antigens present on red blood cells and IgM antibodies present in the serum