

Table 1.

(1045KB)

Organ or Tissue	Color
Blood	
Oxygenated	Red
Deoxygenated	Purple-blue
Skin and appendages	
Skin	Black, brown, yellow, white
Skin of nipples, lips, and genitals	Pink-red to red-brown
Hair	Black, dark brown, light brown, black, gray, white
Central nervous system	
Gray matter	Beige or gray
White matter	White
Substantia nigra	Black
Loci coerulea	Blue-black
Pituitary gland	Pink or light brown
Dura and leptomeninges	White
Brainstem and spinal cord	May be blue-brown (dark-skinned)
leptomeninges	
Peripheral nerves and nerve roots	White
Eye	
Choroid, RPE	Brown-black
Iris	Dark brown, brown, hazel, green, rarely violet
Retina	Orange-red
Macula lutea	Yellow
Sclera	White
Cornea, lens, and vitreous humor	Transparent/colorless
Mucosae	Pink-red
Tongue and all skeletal muscles	Red or pink
	Iridescence in cross section
Teeth and enamel	Pearly white
Salivary glands	Pink, light brown with or without

Thyroid	Red-brown
Parathyroids	Pink, may be light or dark brown
Thymus	Pale pink to yellow
Lungs	Pink
	Purple
Heart	Red-brown
Liver	Red-brown, dark brown
Gallbladder, bile ducts	
Mucosa	Yellow tinge
Smooth muscle	Pink
Spleen	
Red pulp	Dark red
White pulp	Pale yellow to white
Pancreas	Pink to yellow
Esophagus, stomach, small bowel	
Mucosa	Pink-white
Smooth muscle	Pink
Large bowel	
Mucosa	Pink-white
Smooth muscle	Yellow-brown tinge
Adipose tissue	Pink
"White" fat	Bright yellow
Brown fat	Light brown
Adrenal glands	
Zona glomerulosa and fasciculata	Golden yellow
Zona reticularis	Brown
Medulla	Gray-red
Kidneys	Pink-brown
Bladder and ureters	
Mucosa	Pink-white
Smooth muscle	Pink
Canals	

Gonads	
Testes	Pink to light brown
Ovary	Pink-red
Corpora lutea	Golden yellow
Corpora albicantia	White
Uterus and fallopian tubes	Pink
Cervix	Pearly white to pink
Superficial veins	Blue-green in fair-skin individuals
Ligaments	Gray-white to yellow
Bones	White
Cartilage	White, bluish to semitranslucent
Tendons and fasciae	White
	Iridescence
Serosal and amniotic membranes	White to translucent
Lymph nodes, tonsils	Pale pink
Stromal bone marrow	Red-brown
Placenta	Purple-red
Umbilical cord Wharton jelly	White

Abbreviations: Hb, hemoglobin; RBCs, red blood cells; RPE, retinal pigment

^a Question marks (?) indicate a theory or possibility.