

ONLINE NAVIGATE – Medico CME program

1<sup>st</sup> June 2023

# Anaemia – a practical approach in the Indian context

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## Flow of discussion

Anaemia definition

Implications

Signs and symptoms

Diagnosis- take a good look at the CBC

Treatment - including special groups

# How should we define ANAEMIA?

Anaemia is the state in which there is a decreased production of RBCs or a decreased concentration of hemoglobin in the RBCs.

**AN – without**

**HAEMIA-**

**blood (Greek)**

**ANAEMIA-**

**Hb < 14 gm% for male <12 gm% for female**

**Range – 14-18 gm%      Range – 12-16 gm%**

# Haemoglobin in the rbc

contains the red pigment **haemoglobin**

span: 60-120 days

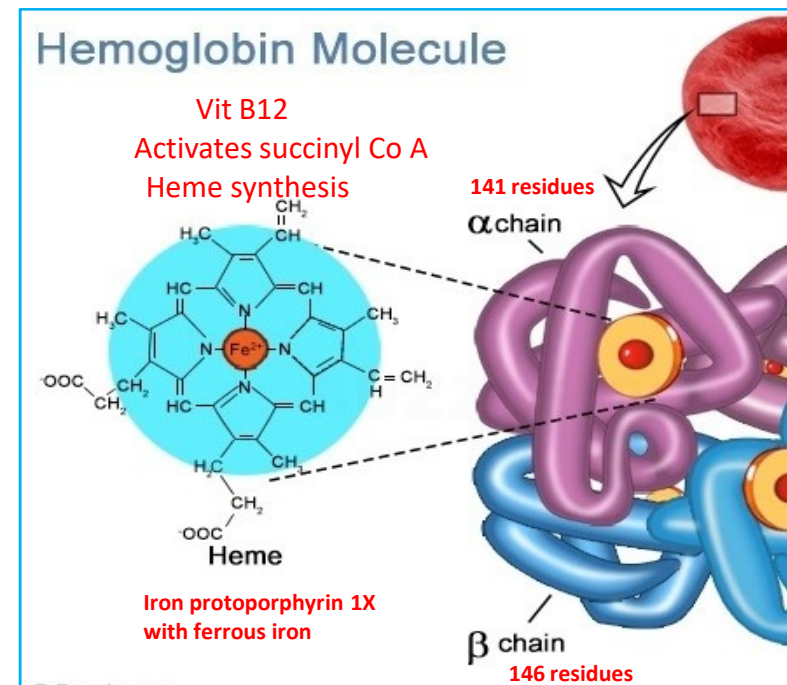
ions :

Transport of **O<sub>2</sub>** with the help of HB

To pick up oxygen from the lungs and deliver it to tissues elsewhere

To pick up **carbon dioxide** from other tissues and unload it in the lungs

Folic acid is n  
for maturatio





# Journal of Population and Social Studies (JPSS)

A publication of the Thai Association of the Population and Social Researchers

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Current

Anaemia Mukt Bharat website 2022

Volume 21

Pre

Anemia was observed to be prevalent among 87.2% males and 96.7% females . Mild form of anemia was observed to be the most common (53.9%) form followed by moderate (29.7%) anemia.  
**Rapid Assessment for Coexistence of Vitamin B12 and Iron Deficiency Anemia among Adolescent Males and Females in Northern Himalayan State of India. Ashok Bharadwaj et al** Anemia, Volume 2013 (2013), Article ID 959605, 5 pages

Volume 16 Number 2

Volume 16 Number 1

the level of anaemia and improves the nutritional status of children, adolescent girls, and pregnant women.

# Prevalence in India

IRON DEFICIENCY IS THE COMMONEST CAUSE OF ANAEMIA

Over half of all women and children in India are anaemic, a figure that has risen in the last three years.

The most recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data show rates increasing of anaemia from 53 per cent to 57 per cent in women and from 58 per cent to 67 per cent in children in 2019-21.

Efforts for anaemia mukt Bharat

**Anaemia Mukht Bharat Programme:**

**Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN):**

**Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):**

**Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK):**

**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):**

# Anaemia in pregnancy

- In Asia, Anaemia (irrespective of the severity) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of maternal death accounting **12.8%** independent of deaths due to postpartum haemorrhage.
- In India, prevalence of Anaemia found to be **58.7% in pregnant women** and **63.2% in breastfeeding mothers** .
- In India, About **20% of maternal deaths** are caused by **Anaemia**
- Anaemia is additional risk factor in contribution of 50% of all maternal deaths.

# Causes of High Burden of Anemia- especially iron deficiency

| Low Iron Stores  | Dietary  | Iron Loss  | Maternal Anemia   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>During pregnancy in anemic mothers</p> <p>Poor iron stores from infancy, childhood deficiencies and adolescent Anemia</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Excessive consumption of 'Iron Inhibitors' (tea, coffee, calcium-rich foods) and low intake of 'Iron Enhancers' (Vitamin C etc.)</li><li>▪ Low bioavailability of dietary iron</li><li>▪ 50% of the population is consuming &lt; 50% RDA</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Due to parasitic load (malaria, intestinal worms)</li><li>▪ Poor environmental sanitation, unsafe drinking water and inadequate personal hygiene</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Increased iron requirement due to tissue, blood formation and energy requirement during pregnancy</li><li>▪ Iron loss from post-partum hemorrhage</li><li>▪ Repeated pregnancies with less than 2 year interval</li></ul> |



# ANAEMIA

NOT DIAGNOSIS BUT AN EVENT OR AN EFFECT

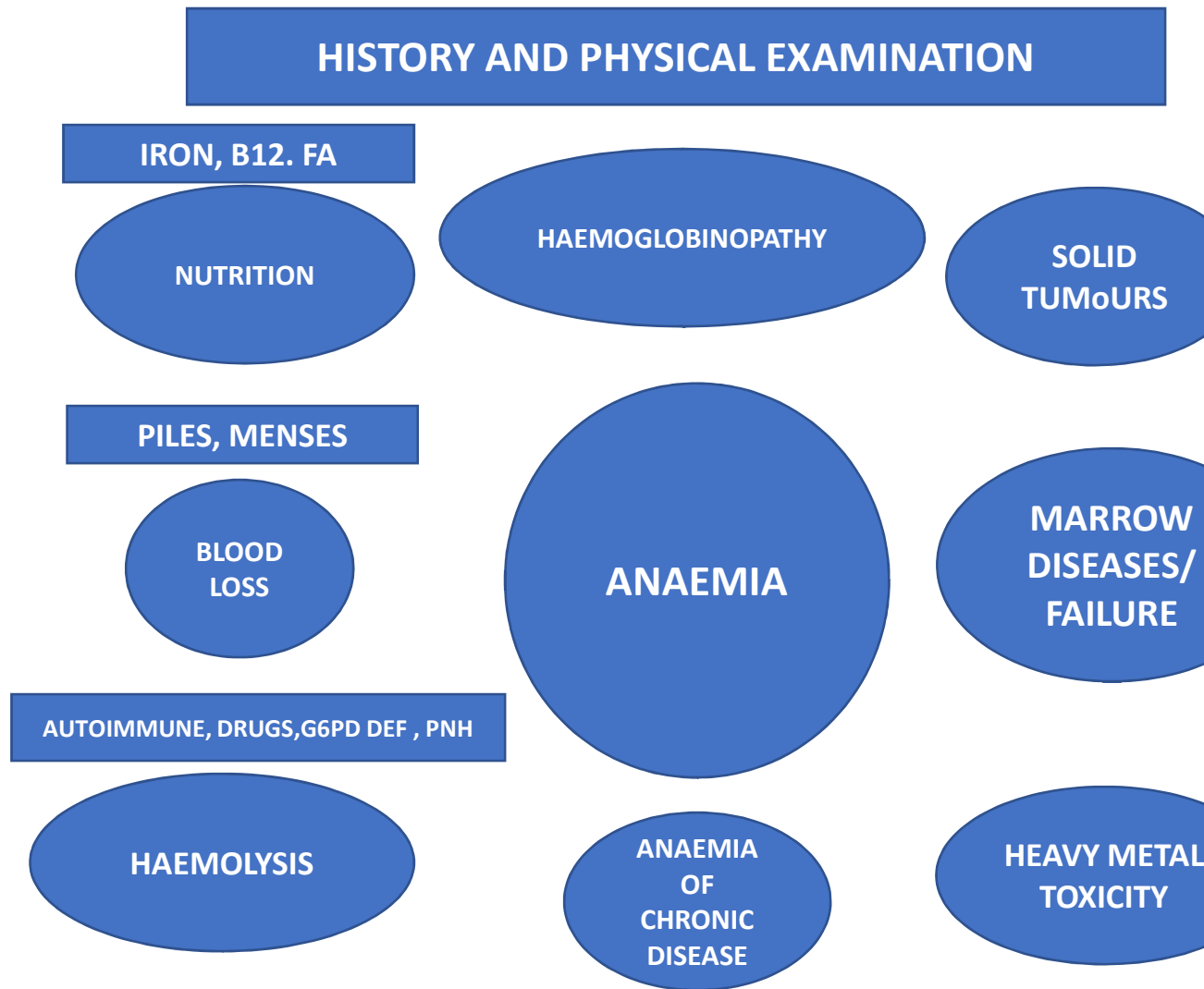
CAUSE OR AETIOLOGY SHOULD BE DETERMINED

WHAT MAY APPEAR LOW RISK MAY HARBOUR SOMETHING SINISTER

CLINICAL PALOR WILL ONLY MAKE US SUSPICIOUS OF ANAEMIA- NOT GIVE A DIAGNOSIS

THE LAB TESTS- ESPECIALLY THE PERIPHERAL SMEAR

PRESENCE OF JAUNDICE, FEVER, LYMPHADENOPATHY, ORGAN ENLARGEMENT CAN SUGGEST MORE SINISTER REASONS



# Common Causes of Anemia in the Elderly

*TABLE 1*

| <i>Cause of anemia</i>                        | <i>Percentage of cases</i> |
|---|----------------------------|
| Anemia of chronic disease                     | 30 to 45                   |
| Iron deficiency                               | 15 to 30                   |
| Posthemorrhagic                               | 5 to 10                    |
| Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> and folate deficiency | 5 to 10                    |
| Chronic leukemia or lymphoma                  | 5                          |
| Myelodysplastic syndrome                      | 5                          |
| No identifiable cause                         | 15 to 25                   |

# Why diagnose anaemia ?

to avoid unnecessary blood Transfusions

TEMPORARY

INFECTIONS

REACTIONS

IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE

SHORT SUPPLY

RARE BLOOD GROUP

- INEVITABLE TRANSFUSION NEED

- CARDIAC COMPROMISE

- ELDERLY

- RAPID DROP IN HB- G6PD, AIHA

- TRAUMA

- INTRA / POST OP BLEEDING

# GUIDELINES FOR TRANSFUSION OF RED CELLS

- 1 Do not transfuse if Hb  $> 10$  gm/dl
- 2 Transfusion indicated if Hb  $< 7$  gm/dl
- 3 Transfusion essential if Hb  $< 5$  gm/dl
- 4 Hb 8- 10 gm/dl safe even if cardioresp probs
- 5 Symptomatic patients should be transfused.

**NOTE:** Wound healing and O<sub>2</sub> delivery not compromised unless PCV  $< 18\%$

AVOID WHOLE BLOOD

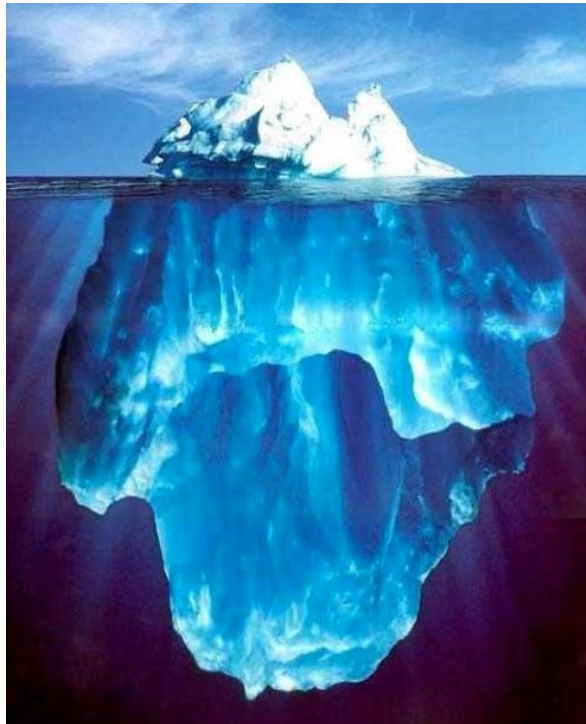
# IMPLICATION OF ANAEMIA

*Cause can vary from benign to malignant !*

EVENT

AETIOLOGY

Quality of life



**CAUSE VS EFFECT**

# Implications of anaemia in pregnancy

**Causes can vary from SIMPLE to COMPLEX !**

| Antepartum complications                 | Intrapartum complications                               | Postpartum complications  | Fetal outcome                   |
|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Increased risk of preterm delivery       | Prolonged labor   | Postpartum hemorrhage     | Low birth weight                |
| Increased risk of rupture of membranes   | Increased rates of operative delivery and induced labor | Puerperal sepsis          | Prematurity                     |
| Increased risk of hypoxia                | Fetal distress  | Lactation failure         | Infections                      |
| Increased risk of fetal Death            | Abruption   | Pulmonary thromboembolism | Congenital malformation         |
| Increased risk of maternal infection     |   | Subinvolution of uterus   | Neonatal Anaemia                |
| Increased risk of maternal hemorrhage    |   | Postpartum depression     | Abnormal cognitive development  |
| Increased risk of maternal Heart Failure |   |                           | Increased risk of Schizophrenia |

# Symptoms of Anaemia



**Tiredness**



**Headaches**



**Shortness  
of breath**



**Fast heartbeat**



**Dizziness**



**Problems with  
concentration**



**Cold hands  
and feet**



**Paleness**



**Thinning hair**



**Brittle nails**



**Mouth sores  
or ulcers**



**Itchy skin**

## **SYMPTOMS**

**SOB / Leg cramps / fatigue /  
irritable**

**Poor diet Nutritional**

**BLEEDING            GI blood  
loss, menstrual loss**

**MEDICATION**

**Antiplatelet /  
NSAIDS**

**Constitutional symptoms-  
fever, weight loss**

## **SIGNS**

**PALOR   NAILS   SKIN   ICTERUS**

**Cardiac status**

**Respiratory status**

**Fever       lymph nodes  
organomegaly**

**Haemodynamics**

**edema feet**

**DURATION   Childhood, long term, recent onset**

**Blood loss during surgical intervention**

**REVIEW PAST RECORDS**



# WHAT IS THE STARTING POINT OF ANAEMIA APPROACH?

**CBC**

**Haemoglobin / PCV**

← quantity

**MCV, MCH, MCHC, RDW**

← quality

**White cell count (Leucocytes)**

← quantity

**Differential count**

← quality

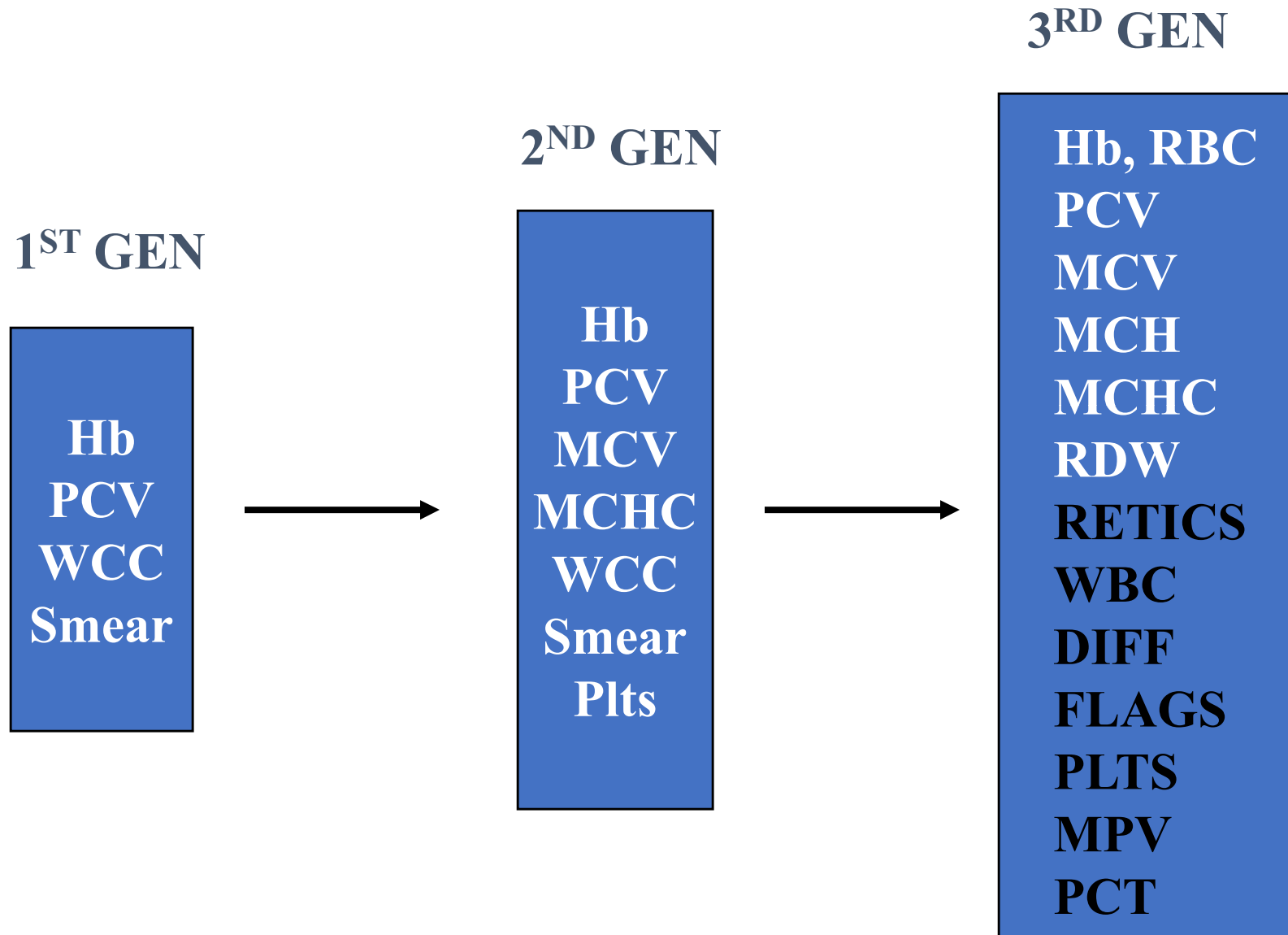
**Platelet count / PCT**

← quantity

**MPV**

← quality

# CBC- AUTOMATION





# STS- METHODOLOGY

## Parameters provided by automated hematology analyzers

### Measured parameters

Hemoglobin (**Hb**)  
Hematocrit (**HCT**)  
RBC count (**RBC #**)  
Platelet count (**PLT #**)  
WBC count (**WBC #**)  
WBC diff. (**WBC %**)

### Derived parameters

- **MCH** (Hb/RBC #)
- **MCV** (HCT/RBC #)
- **MCHC** (Hb/HCT)
- **RDW** (RBC volume)
- **MPV** (Plt TV/PLT)

**RAPID, RELIABLE, REPRODUCIBLE CBC TEST  
AUTOMATION**

**and histograms (RBC, WBC & PLT)**

# CLASSIFICATION ON INDICES

| S          | MCV  | MCH |   |
|------------|------|-----|---|
| Micro      | LOW  | LOW | IDA/ THAL/ Sideroblastic/ ACD/ Lead toxicity  |
| Macrocytic | HIGH | N   | B12/ folate/ MDS/H'Lysis/ Myeloma/ Alcohol/ t |
|            | N    | N   | Combination defect /Bld loss/ haemolysis      |

# STEPS - APPROACH TO ANAEMIA

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS

LABORATORY PARAMETERS

CPC – CLINICAL PATH CORRELATION

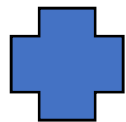
ASSIMILATION OF EVENTS AND “PATTERN OF RECOGNITION”

THERAPY

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

# CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OF ANAEMIA

Fe, B12, Fol, drugs, BM disorders



Jaundice, spleen



GI, Menses

**PRODUCTION** **VERSUS** **DESTRUCTION** **VERSUS** **LOSS**

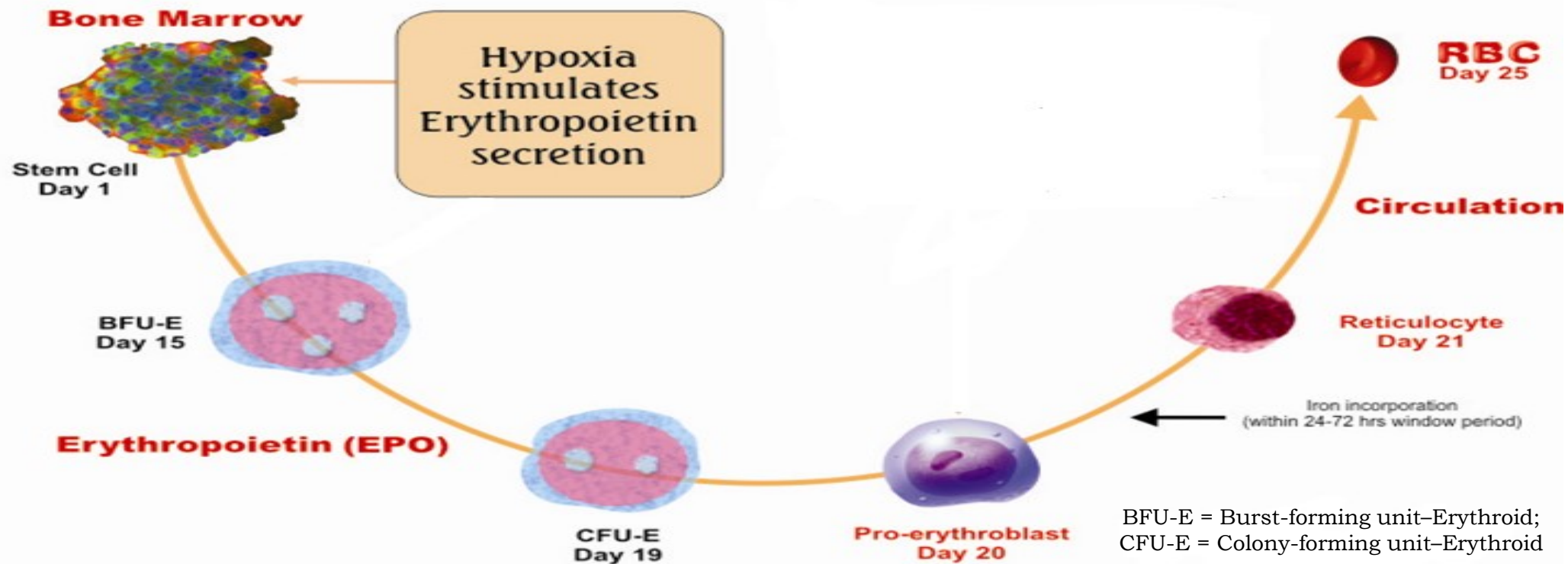
Infective

immune , non immune,  
Sickle, Spherocytes ,  
Elliptocytes ,  
Ovalocytes

G6PD

# Formation of RBCs (Erythropoiesis)

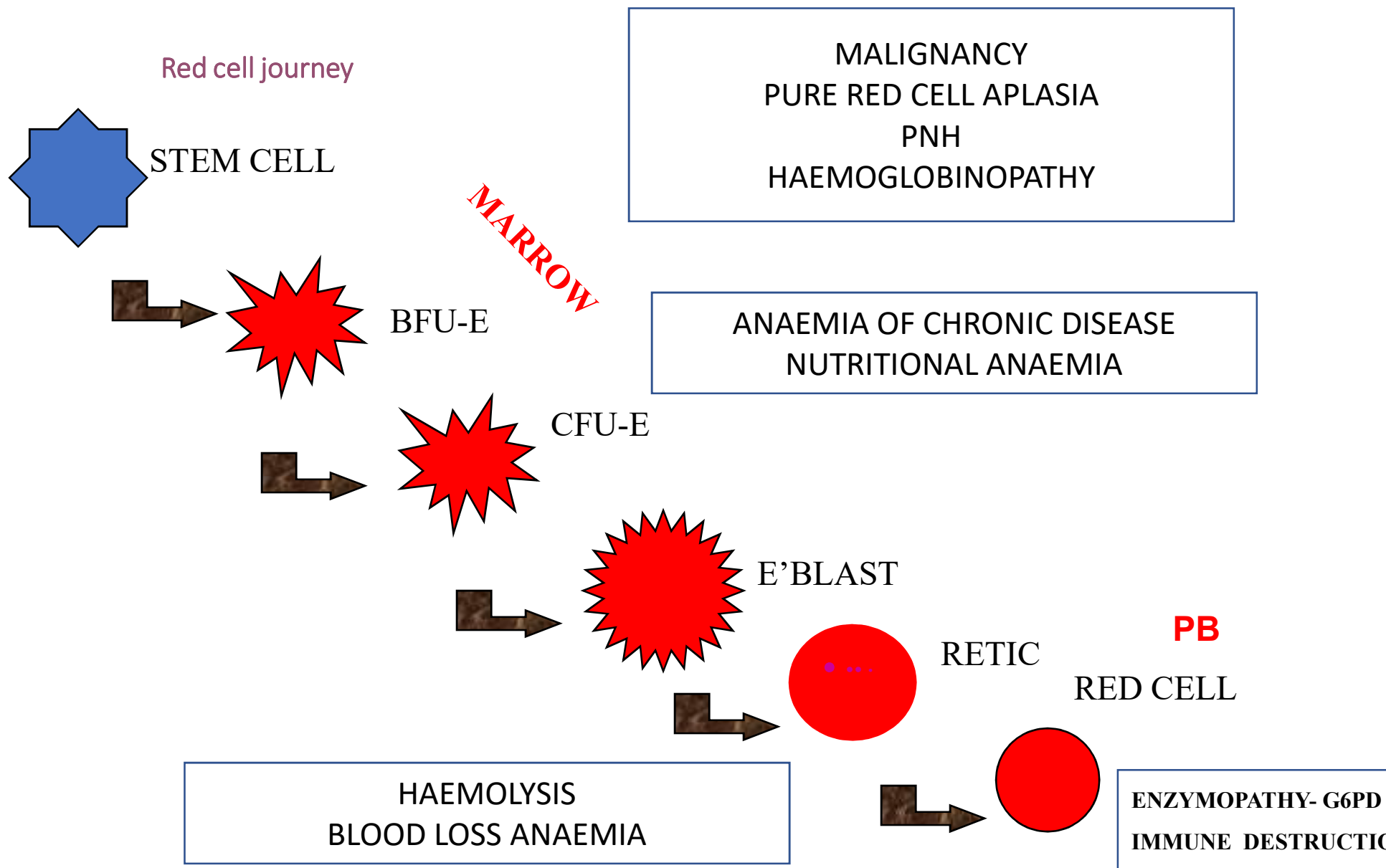
Approx. 200 billion new erythrocytes generated each day, requiring 20–25mg of iron for Hb production



Body absorbs only 1-2mg of new iron per day. So, 90%-95% of the iron used in this process comes from the recycling of old and inactive RBCs

Anaemia is a late indicator of Iron deficiency, so estimated prevalence of Iron deficiency is **2.5 times that of anaemia**.





# ASSESSMENT OF PERIPHERAL SMEAR

Peripheral smear- Diagnostic- Give a direction for investigations and therapy

Cell morphology

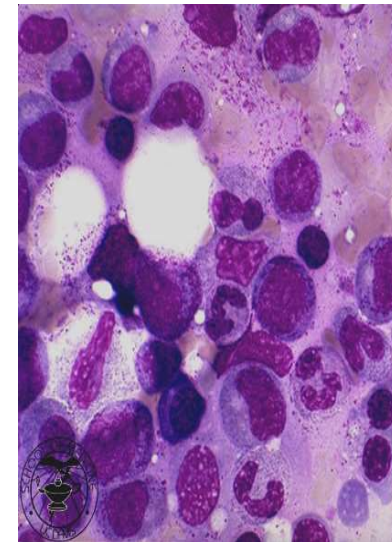
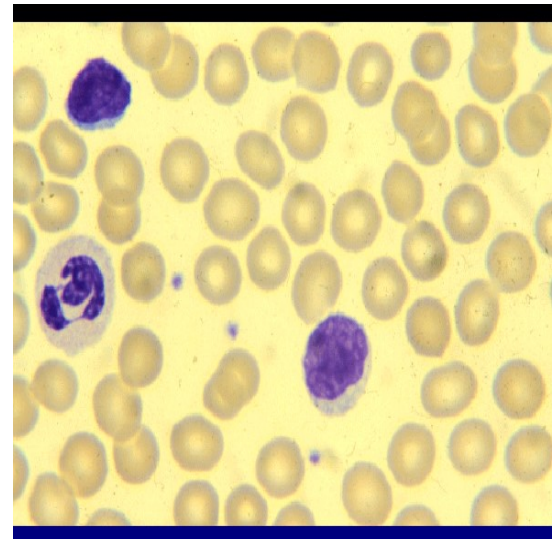
Presence of nrbcs

Segmented red cells, sickle cells

Infection like malaria

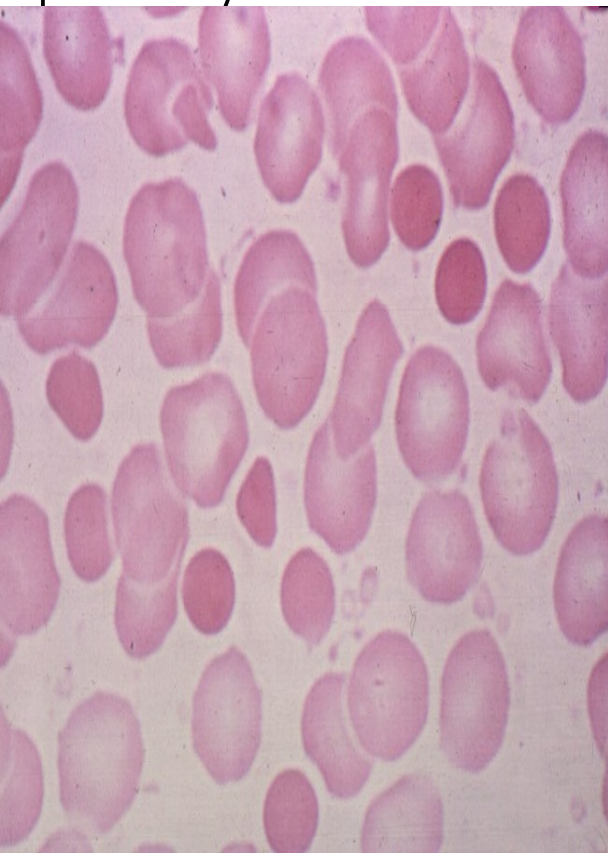
Normal leucocytes

Hemolysis

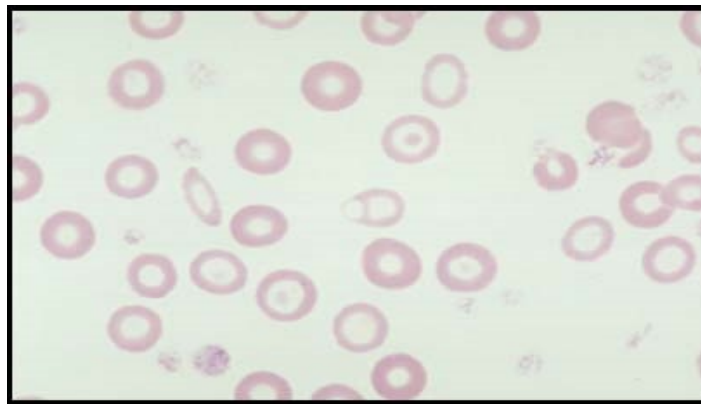




Spherocytes

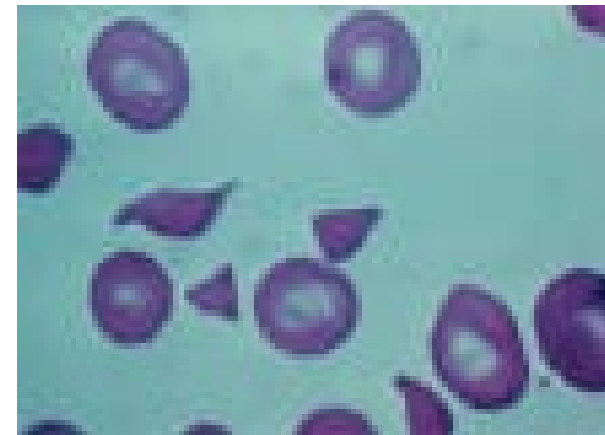


BITE CELL ANAEMIA



SICKLE CELLS

MICROANGIOPATHY



# APPROACH TO ANAEMIA

## CHROMIC - MICROCYTIC ANAEMIA

W AND MCH

D CELL COUNT

L RDW

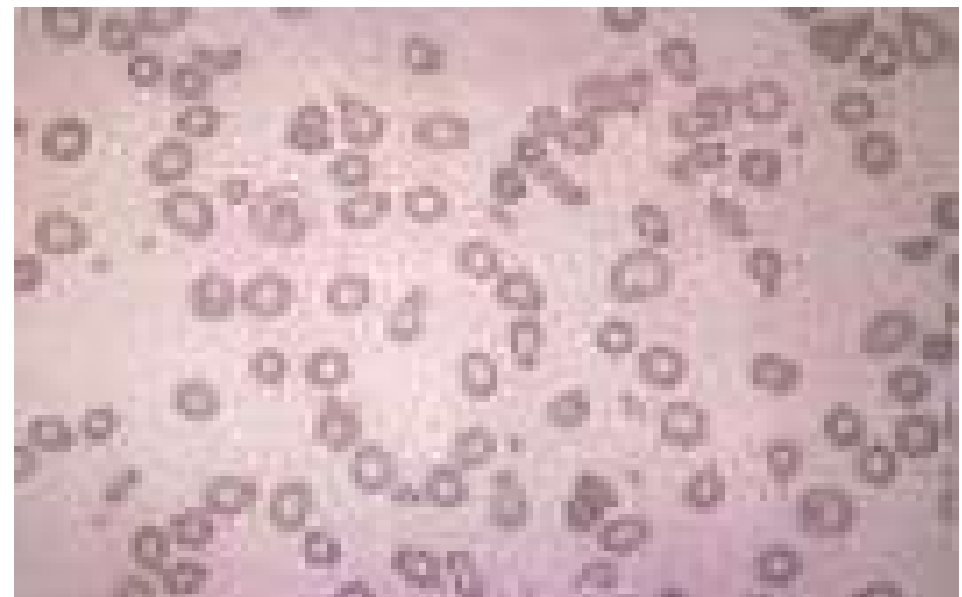
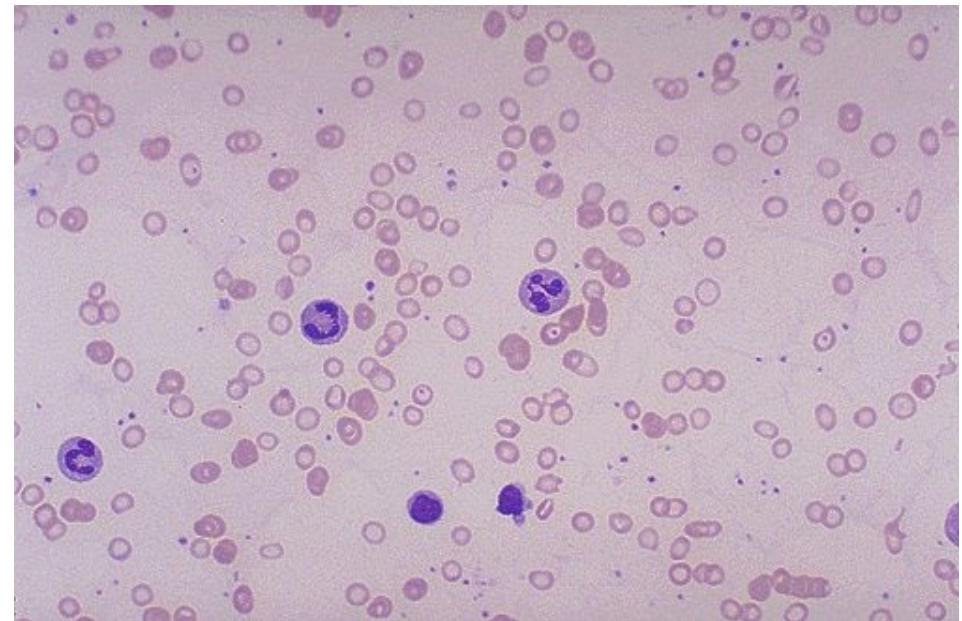
FICIENCY

AL. TRAIT (MINOR)

BLASTIC

A OF CHRONIC DISEASE

OXICITY .



# APPROACH TO ANAEMIA

## **NORMOCHROMIC- NORMOCYTIC ANAEMIA**

COMBINATION OF MICRO + MACRO

HEMOLYSIS

HEMORRHAGE

ROLE OF RDW

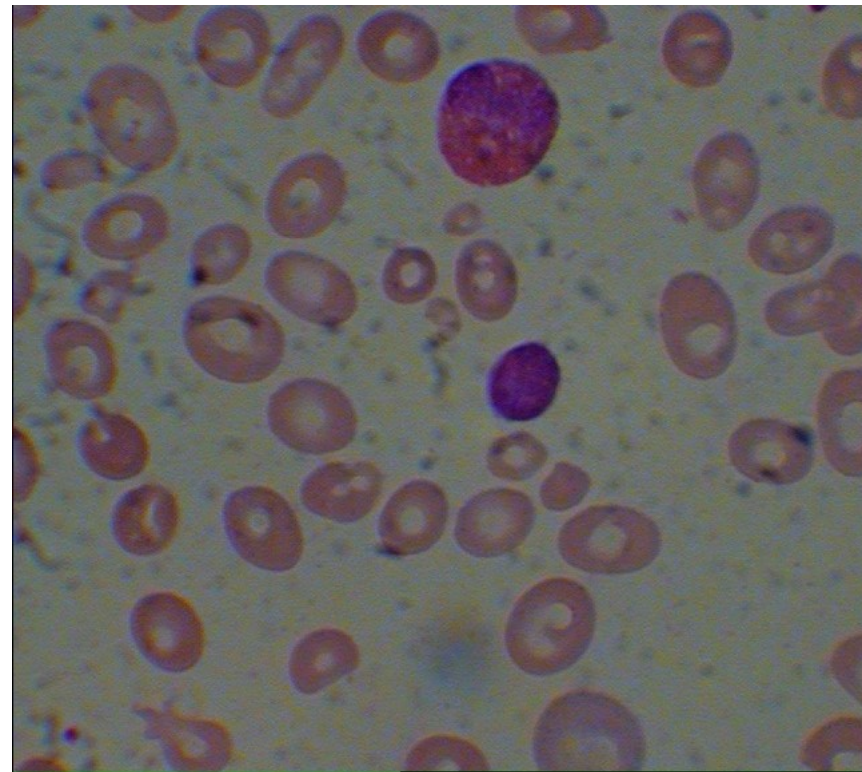
USUALLY NEEDS MORE WORK UP INCLUDING BMA AND  
IBX

# APPROACH TO ANAEMIA

## MACROCYTIC ANAEMIA

HIGH MCV  
LOW RBC COUNT  
USUALLY LOW RETIC

Megaloblastic  
Hypothyroid  
Liver disease  
MDS  
Malignancy  
Haemolysis



## Additional tests for diagnosis

Reticulocyte count

S. LDH

Direct and Indirect Coombs test

G6PD

S. Ferritin

S. Vit B12 , S Folate levels

Haemoglobin Electrophoresis

Thyroid function

S. ANA

S. Erythropoietin levels

ESR

- S iron studies
  - Soluble transferrin receptor
  - Lead levels
  - DNA analysis
  - Unstable haemoglobin
  - RBC enzyme analysis
  - PNH by flow cytometry
- 
- Bone marrow examination



# INDICATORS FOR BONE MARROW EXAMINATION

POINTERS FROM HISTORY AND EXAMINATION

RAISED ESR, ROULEAUX, HOT SPOTS ON SCAN

BLASTS ON SMEAR, HYPOGRANULAR NEUTROPHILS

OR ABNORMAL CELLS

NORMOCHROMIC-NORMOCYTIC ANAEMIA OR UNEXPLAINED ANAEMIA

# Deficiency Anaemia – Global Scenario

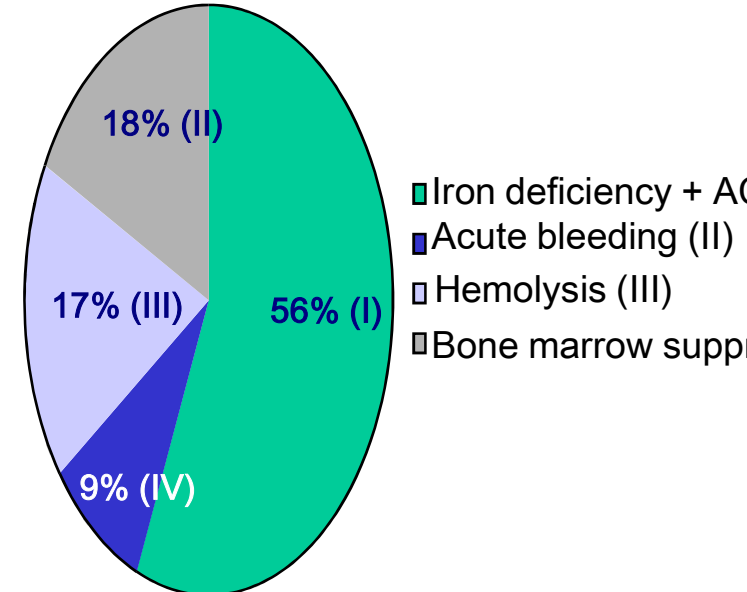
IRON DEFICIENCY IS THE COMMONEST CAUSE OF ANAEMIA

Almost half of the world population is anemic –

- 9-14% in developed countries
- 43-51% low developed countries
- 65-75% in India alone

In absolute number, anaemia- 1.62 billion people globally ( 24.8%)

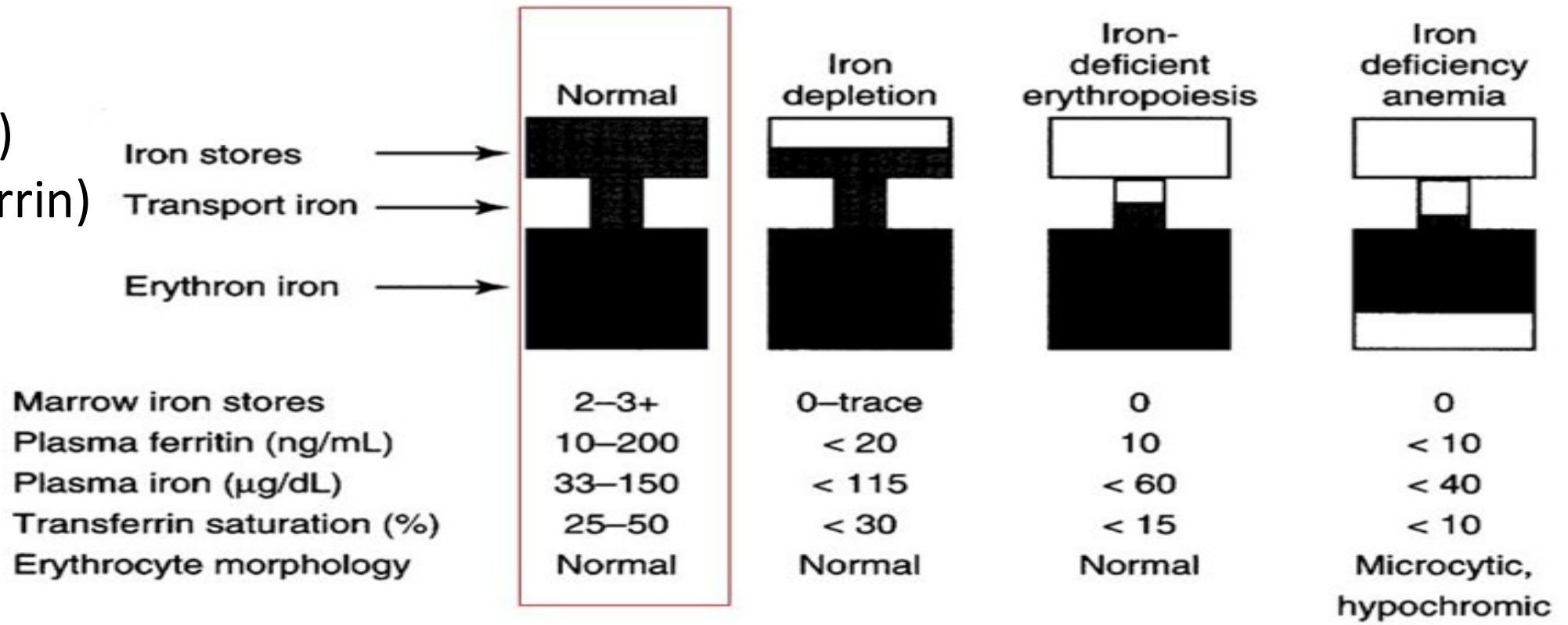
- 293 million children of Pre-school age – 47%
- 56 million pregnant women – 42%
- 468 million non-pregnant women – 13%
- Nearly 50% of women of reproductive age and 26% of men in age group of 15-59years are anemic



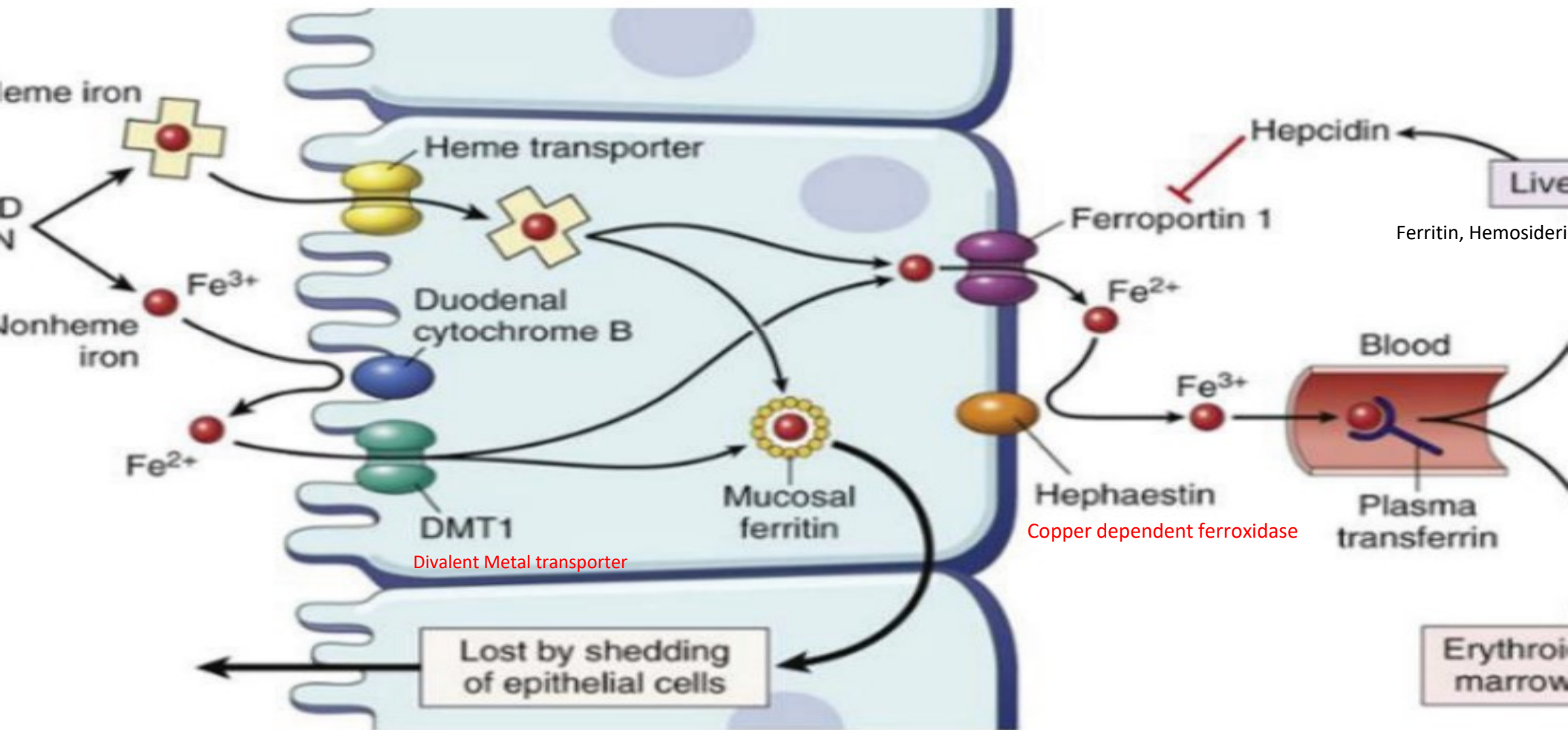
# Iron Deficiency Anaemia: Three Stages

Iron depletion is the onset of iron deficiency with a reduction in storage iron still with normal iron level for erythropoiesis.

(in)  
(ferritin)



# Iron Absorption & Storage



# Therapeutic solutions to address IDA

ORAL IRON PREPARATIONS – SEVERAL SALTS

INTRAMUSCULAR IRON PREPARATION

INTRAVENOUS IRON PREPARATIONS

# APPROACH TO IRON THERAPY

Oral Tablets      Ferrous sulfate, fumarate, succinate, gluconate. Several other salts  
60-100 mg of elemental iron per day.

Concept of alternate day therapy

After food intake of iron rather than fasting

Inexpensive. Easily available. Good bioavailability.

Problems:      SIDE EFFECTS   NON-COMPLIANCE

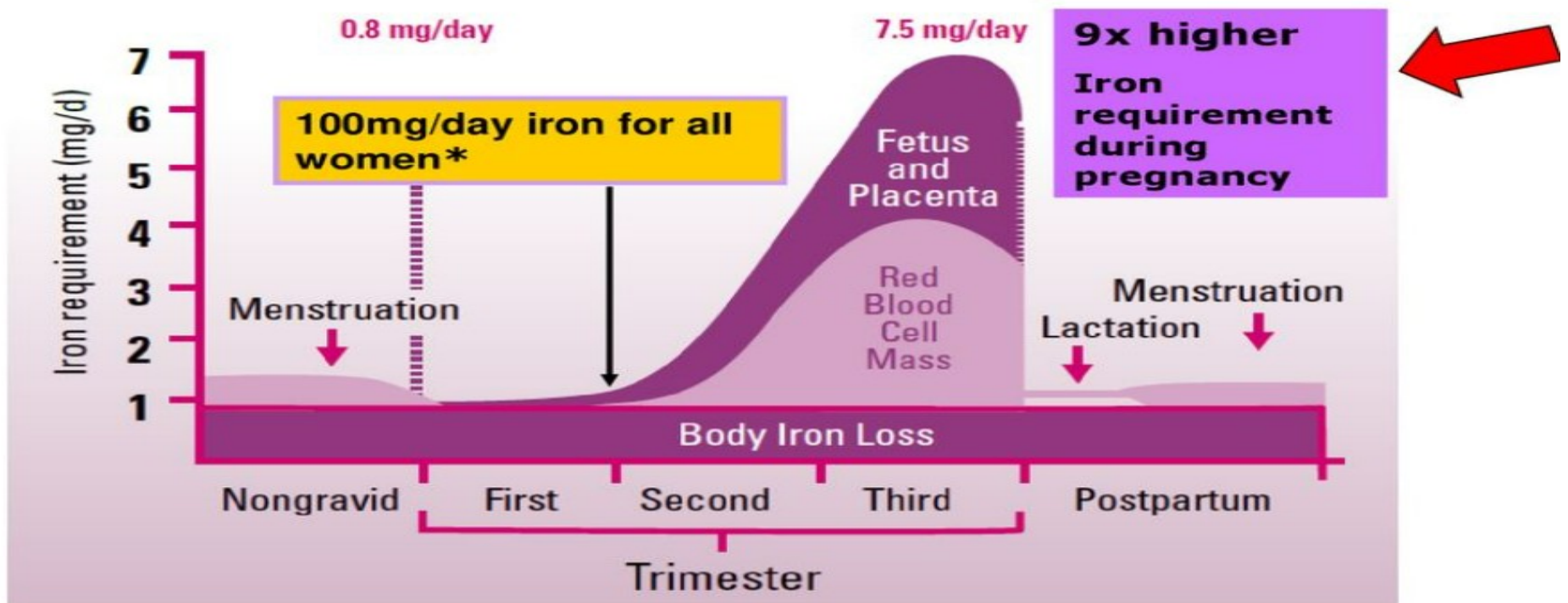
IRON RICH DIET

# PARENTERAL THERAPY

More options for parenteral  
newer, safer, less toxic and more  
effective

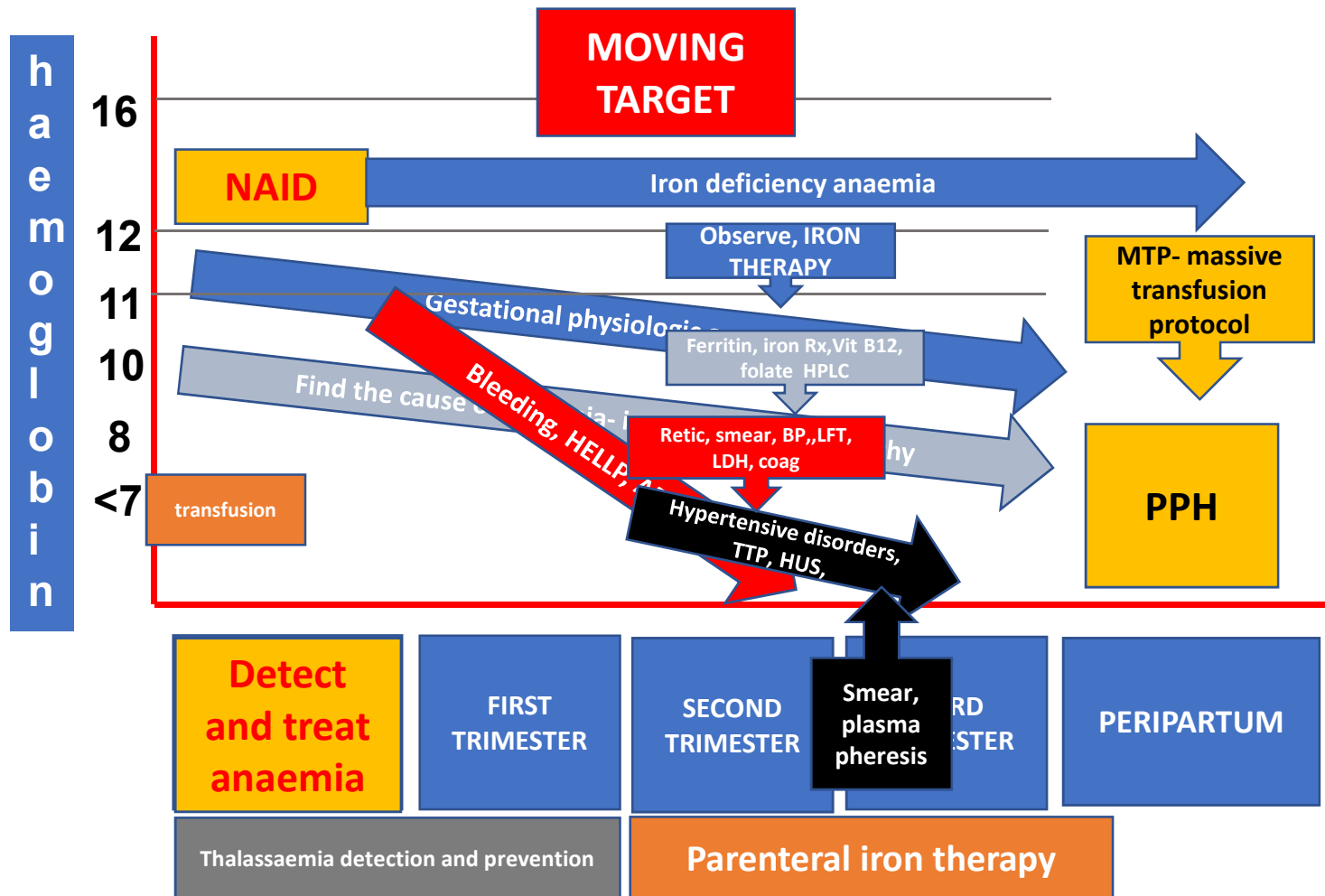
- Intolerant to oral iron therapy
- GI malabsorption syndrome
- Intestinal resection surgery
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> trimester pregnancy
- Post operative to reduce transfusion need
- Iron deficiency with heart failure to improve cardiac function
- Iron deficiency in renal failure patient
- Religious belief

# Iron needs during pregnancy

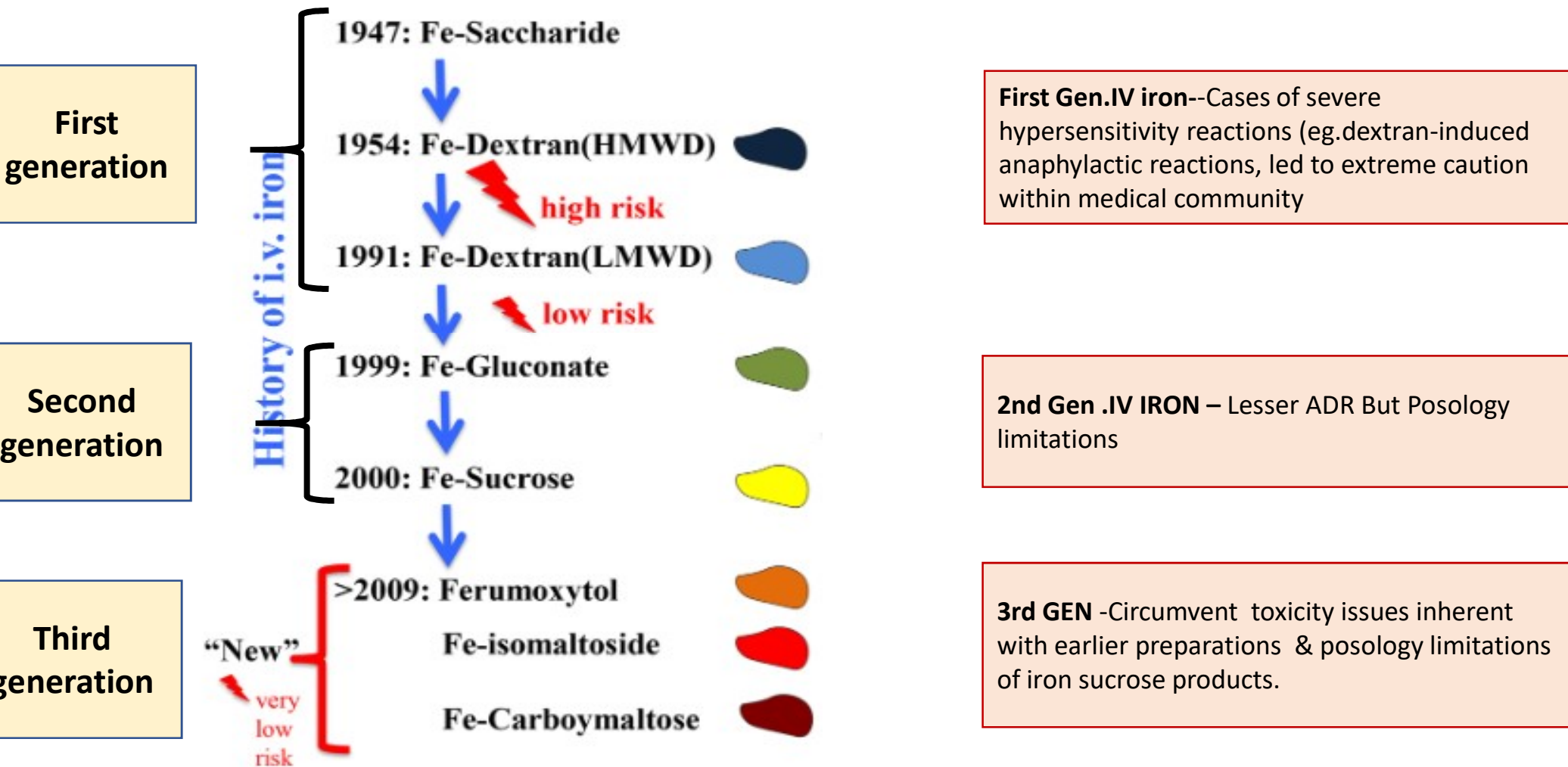




# Birds eye view of anaemia in pregnancy



# Parenteral Iron preparations - old to new

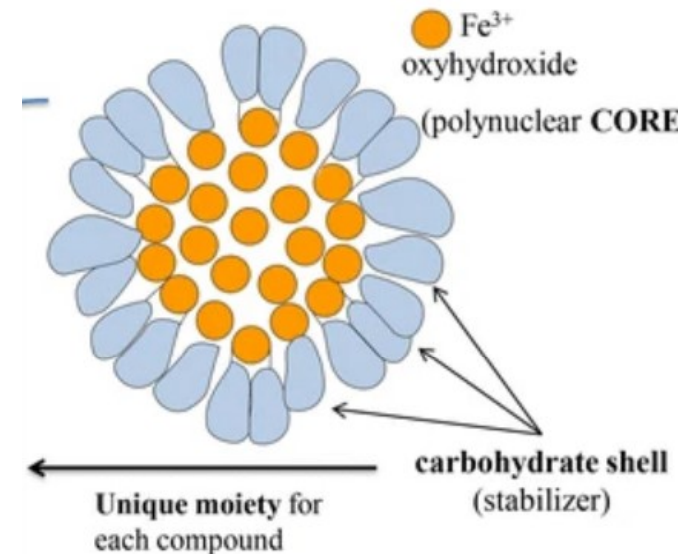


# Bioengineering of IV Iron

IV iron preparations are bioengineered as iron-carbohydrate complexes and consist of colloidal suspensions of iron oxide nanoparticles with a polynuclear Fe(III)-oxyhydroxide/oxide core surrounded by a carbohydrate ligand

Physicochemical differences between the IV irons include mineral composition, crystalline structure, conformation, size and molecular weight

key point of difference between IV iron products is the carbohydrate ligand, which influences complex stability, iron release and immunogenicity, and is a unique feature of each drug



Key differences in:

- ✓ Immunogenicity
- ✓ Strength of stabilization

# Dose calculation

## Iron Sucrose

### Calculated using Ganzoni formula:

Cumulative iron deficit [mg] = body weight [kg] x (target Hb - actual Hb) [g/dl] x 2.4 + iron storage depot [mg]

Thus, for **Iron Sucrose** Inj. multiple visits are required

| Day | Dose  |
|-----|-------|
| Mon | 200mg |
| Tue | -     |
| Wed | 200mg |
| Thu | -     |
| Fri | 200mg |
| Sat | -     |
| Sun | -     |
| Mon | 200mg |
| Tue | -     |
| Wed | 180mg |

## Ferric Carboxymaltose

**1000 mg can be administered in single visit  
in over minimum 15 mins**

| Weight/Hb                         | ≥10 gm/dL | <10 gm/dL |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Body weight ≥ 35 kg<br>and <70 kg | 1000 mg   | 1500 mg   |
| Body weight ≥ 70 kg               | 1500 mg   | 2000 mg   |

In most of Indian pregnant women 1000 to 1500 mg is well suited

## Dilution for infusion

syndrome (hyperphosphaturic hypophosphatemia triggered by high fibroblast growth factor 23 that causes hypovitaminosis D, hypocalcemia and secondary hyperparathyroidism).

| System           | Common<br>(>1%- <10%)  | Uncommon<br>(>0.1% - <1%)  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Immune system    |  | hypersensitivity   |
| Nervous system   |  |  |
| Vascular         |  |  |
| Gastrointestinal |  | nausea   |
| Skin             |  |  |
| Musculoskeletal  |  |  |
| General          |  | malaise,   |
|                  |  | oedema peripheral  |
| Investigational  | transient blood phosphorus decreased, alanine aminotransferase increased | aspartate aminotransferase increased, gamma-glutamyltransferase increased, blood lactate dehydrogenase increased |

**Contraindications**

- known hypersensitivity to compound or to any of its excipients
- anaemia not attributed to iron deficiency
- evidence of iron overload or disturbances in utilization of iron
- in pregnancy in the first trimester
- in children below 14 yrs

## Postpartum anemia- the 4<sup>th</sup> Trimester !

### A neglected health issue

In India, more emphasis and vigilance is given to the antenatal period

The entire focus shifts to the newborn

Most common maternal

### Causes for PPA

- Peripartum hemorrhage
- Anemia during pregnancy
- Inadequate iron intake during pregnancy
- Closely spaced pregnancies
- Multiple births
- Following delivery, women lose some amount of iron through breastfeeding and lactation

## ROLE OF IV IRON THERAPY

# Latest Update: Expert Opinion on FCM use in Pregnancy and PPA

## Ferric Carboxymaltose for the Treatment of Anemia during Antenatal and Postpartum Period: Expert Opinion

PC Mahapatra<sup>1</sup>, Sanjay Gupte<sup>2</sup>, Narendra Malhotra<sup>3</sup>, PM Gopinath<sup>4</sup>, Suchitra N Pandit<sup>5</sup>, Sunita Tandulwadkar<sup>6</sup>, Mahesh Gupta<sup>7</sup>, Sheela Shenoy<sup>8</sup>, Vidya V Bhat<sup>9</sup>, Arun M Boruah<sup>10</sup>, Kawita Bapat<sup>11</sup>, Milind R Shah<sup>12</sup>, Jaideep Malhotra<sup>13</sup>, Neharika Malhotra<sup>14</sup>, Swami Onkar C<sup>15</sup>, Ruchika Garg<sup>16</sup>

IV FCM may be preferred over oral iron and IV iron sucrose for all severities of anemia in the second and third trimesters of **pregnancy (optimal time 12-32 weeks)**

FCM should be the choice of iron supplementation in **PPA** to rapidly and effectively correct iron deficiency, improve iron stores, and raise Hb to optimal levels

Within 6 weeks of FCM treatment, one can expect a rise in Hb by nearly 3–4 gm/dL with a significant rise in ferritin and replenishment of iron stores

# Anemia Mukht Bharat Guidelines 2018

## Anemia management protocol for Pregnant women

### Mild anemia (Hb 10-10.9g/dL) & Moderate anemia ( 7-9.9 g/dL)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| First level of treatment                          | 100 mg elemental iron and 500 mcg folic acid daily for 6 months   |
|   | Parental iron ( <b>IV Iron Sucrose or FCM</b> ) may be considered as the first line of management in pregnant women who are detected to be anemic late in pregnancy or in whom compliance is likely to be low (high chance of lost to follow-up). |
| If no improvement, after first level of treatment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Referral to higher health facility</li><li>▪ The case may be managed with <b>IV Iron Sucrose/Ferric Carboxymaltose</b></li></ul>  |



# Anemia Mukht Bharat Guidelines 2018

## Anemia management protocol for Pregnant women

### Severe anemia (Hb 5-6.9 g/dL)

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| First level of treatment | <p>Immediate hospitalization if it is the third trimester of pregnancy where round-the-clock specialist care is available</p> <p>The treatment will be done using IV Iron <b>Sucrose/Ferric Carboxymaltose</b> by the medical officer</p> |
|--------------------------|---|

## FIGO GCSI GCPR 2017 recommendations

In postpartum anemic patients, parenteral intravenous (Iron sucrose/ ferric carboxymaltose) may be the preferred alternative over oral iron for ensuring compliance and faster response **(Grade A, level 3)**

Ferric carboxymaltose has an advantage of administration as a bolus dose in the postpartum period for correction of anemia and restoration of iron stores **(Grade A, level 2)**

# What is BETA THALASSAEMIA trait?

ETHNIC COMMUNITY

USUALLY IRON OVERPRESCRIBED

LOW HB – usual Hb 9-11gm% but may vary

HB ELECTROPHORESIS      RAISED A2

DNA ANALYSIS FOR GENE MUTATION

GENETIC COUNSELLING

Should be given iron if proven iron deficiency

Thalassaemia trait

Hb Low

Normal / raised RBC

Low MCV

Low MCH

Normal MCHC

IDA

Low Hb

Low RBC

Low MCV

Low MCH

Low MCHC

# WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THALASSAEMIA?

|            |  |             |
|------------|--|-------------|
| MINOR      | NORMAL LIFE, MILD ANAEMIA  | HB 9-11 GM% |
| INTERMEDIA | SHORT STATURE,<br>JAUNDICE, ABNORMAL FACIES,<br>HEPATOSPLENOMEGALY | HB 7-9 GM%  |
| MAJOR      | TRANSFUSION DEPENDENT  | HB <7 GM%   |

**Table 4. Interpretation of haemoglobinopathy carrier testing results**

| MCH (pg) | Ferritin | Haemoglobin electrophoresis | Interpretation   |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| ≥27      | Normal   | Normal                      | Thalassaemia unlikely but one gene deletion α-thalassaemia not excluded  |
|          | Normal   | HbS present                 | Carrier for sickle cell disease  |
|          | Low      | Normal                      | Reduced iron stores or iron deficiency, thalassaemia unlikely but one gene deletion α-thalassaemia not excluded                                    |
| <27      | Normal   | HbA <sub>2</sub> increased  | Carrier for β-thalassaemia   |
|          |          | HbF increased               |  |
|          |          | HbA <sub>2</sub> normal     | Carrier for α-thalassaemia   |
|          |          | HbH present                 | Carrier for sickle cell disease  |
| <27      | Normal   | HbS present                 | Possible co-existent thalassaemia carrier state  |
|          |          | Normal                      | Possible carrier for α-thalassaemia  |
|          |          |                             | DNA testing indicated  |
| <27      | Low      | Normal                      | Iron deficiency<br>Thalassaemia may coexist<br>If woman is pregnant, seek advice about DNA testing; test partner for full haemoglobinopathy screen |

## Thalassaemia Screening in Ante natal Clinic

- Aim- identify couples in which both partners have thalassaemia minor and/or a haemoglobinopathy and who are at risk of having a baby with serious disease.
- This allows timely prenatal diagnosis and/or early diagnosis and treatment of affected children.
- Detailed genetic counseling and family studies are important for future pregnancies

# Haemoglobinopathy and iron deficiency

REMEMBER- YOU COULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BIRTH OF A THALASSAEMIA MAJOR !!

- Known haemoglobinopathy - serum ferritin
- Give oral supplements if their ferritin  $<30$  ug/l
- Unknown haemoglobinopathy status – Look at the indices – hypo microcytic -trial of oral iron (1B)
- Do haemoglobinopathy after at least 3 weeks of oral iron therapy
- If no response to iron therapy and no rise in HB- look for Vit B12/ Folate(1A)
- CHECK SPOUSE THAL STATUS

# MEGALOBLASTIC ANAEMIA

**EXTREMELY COMMON**

**History, Skin hyperpigmentation, bald tongue**

**Macrocytic anaemia, macro-ovalocytes, raised LDH, raise ind. bilirubin**

**CBC. RDW, ACTIVE B12, S. FOLATE, S.LDH, RETICS, S. IND BIL,**

**IM REPLACEMENT**

**IV REPLACEMENT**

**SUBLINGUAL / oral REPLACEMENT OF B12**

**REPLACE FOLATE SIMULTANEOUSLY**

**IFA. APCA**

**OTHER AUTOIMMUNE PROFILE (DM,HYPOTHYROID,VITILIGO)**



# HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIA

## **AUTOIMMUNE HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIA**

### **DIRECT COOMBS TEST**

### **INDIRECT COOMBS TEST**

### **S. Bil, LDH, S.HAPTOGLOBIN**

## **NON-AUTOIMMUNE HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIA**

# Sickle Cell Anemia Clinical Features

Autosomal Recessive Disease

AS (sickle cell trait) is asymptomatic; Not serious (no hematuria, Isosthenuria, papillary necrosis)

Four principle genotypes of sickle cell disease:

|  | Genotype                                   | Abbreviated Form                 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
|  | Homozygous sickle cell disease             | SS disease                       |
|  | Sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease           | SC disease                       |
|  | Sickle cell-beta <sup>+</sup> -thalassemia | S beta <sup>+</sup> -thalassemia |
|  | Sickle cell-beta <sup>0</sup> -thalassemia | S beta <sup>0</sup> -thalassemia |

# Sickle Cell Anemia Clinical Features

Consequences of Vaso-Occlusion:

Stroke

Stroke

Acute Chest syndrome

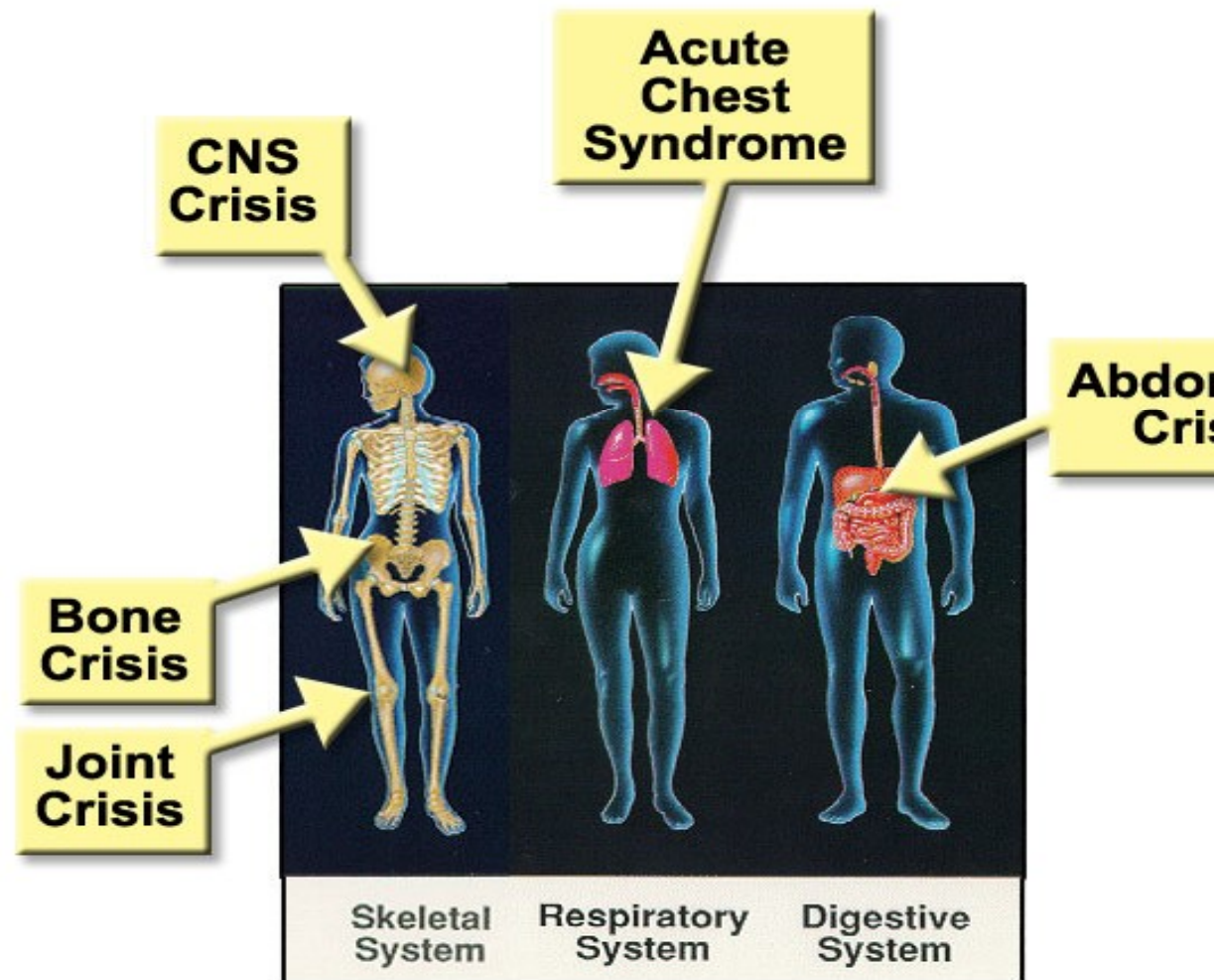
Rectocolitis

Splenic infarction

Renal Disease

Painful Death

HYDRATION,  
PREVENTION OF ACIDOSIS,  
PREVENTION OF INFECTION  
OXYGENATION



# COMBINATION THERAPY

**IRON + B12**

**IRON + B12 + TRANSFUSIONS**

**IRON + B12+ TRANSFUSIONS + ERYTHROPOIETIN**

ER INHERITED / STEM CELL DISORDERS AS CAUSES OF ANAEMIA

G6PD DEFICIENCY

HEREDITARY SPHEROCYTOSIS

OTHER RBC MEMBRANE DEFECTS

# WHAT IS REFRACTORY ANAEMIA?

ANAEMIA NON-RESPONSIVE TO STANDARD THERAPY OR  
CAUSE NOT RELATED TO COMMON CAUSES OF ANAEMIA.

MDS (myelodysplastic syndromes)

Anaemia of systemic diseases

Anaemia of cancers

Normal  $\alpha 2$  thalassaemia

Alpha thalassaemia

Aplastic anaemia

Pure red cell aplasia

Granulomas

Glycogen storage disease

BONE MARROW EXAMINATION

# ANAEMIA OF CHRONIC DISEASE

**Low Hb, Low Indices,**

**No e/o thalassaemia or iron deficiency or lead poisoning or blood loss**

**Mal-utilisation of existing iron**

**ERYTHROPOIETIN COULD BE DRUG OF CHOICE**

**IDA- TSat- <15%**

**S.Ferritin < 12 ng/ml**

**ACD- TSat- <20%**

**S.Ferritin < 100 ng/ml**

**Ret He and soluble transferrin receptor**

## Laboratory findings in differential diagnosis of IDA

|                             | Iron deficiency anemia | Alpha/beta thalassemia | Anemia of chronic disease |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hemoglobin                  | Decreased              | Decreased              | Decreased                 |
| Mean Corpuscular Volume     | Decreased              | Decreased              | Normal-decreased          |
| Red Cell Distribution Width | Increased              | Normal                 | Normal-decreased          |
| Erythrocyte Protoporphyrin  | Increased              | Normal                 | Increased                 |
| Serum Iron-Binding Capacity | Increased              | Normal                 | Decreased                 |
| Transferrin Saturation      | Decreased              | Normal                 | Decreased                 |
| Serum Ferritin              | Decreased              | Normal                 | Increased                 |
| Transferrin Receptor        | Increased              | Normal                 | Increased                 |







## ASSESSMENT OF THERAPY

CBC - Indices, reticulocyte count, haemoglobin

RISE IN Hb 1-1.5 GM/DL AT 10 -14 DAYS

Improvement in performance scale

Inadequate response-need for further evaluation

## CASE STUDY 1

### FEMALE 19 YEARS

- SYMPTOMATIC ANAEMIA
- NO FEVER / CONSTITUTIONAL SYMPTOMS
- LOW HB SINCE ATLEAST 5 YEARS
- MULTIPLE IRON THERAPY
- RECENTLY VITAMIN B12 THERAPY

HB Electrophoresis

Hb A 98%, A2 1.8%  
Iron Studies Normal  
Normal B12  
No bleeding  
No drugs

- |             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| • HB        | 9 GM %  |
| • MCV       | 59      |
| • MCH       | 19      |
| • MCHC      | 32      |
| • RBC COUNT | 5.9     |
| • WBC       | 5900    |
| • PLTS      | 476,000 |

**alpha thalassaemia**

## CASE STUDY 2 MALE 39 YEARS

- SYMPTOMATIC ANAEMIA
- NO FEVER / CONSTITUTIONAL SYMPTOMS
- LOW HB SINCE ATLEAST 3 MONTHS
- RECEIVED IRON AND B12 THERAPY
- NO RESPONSE

THYMOMA ASSOCIATION

HB Electrophoresis normal  
S Ferritin /Iron Studies normal  
Normal B12  
No bleeding  
No drugs

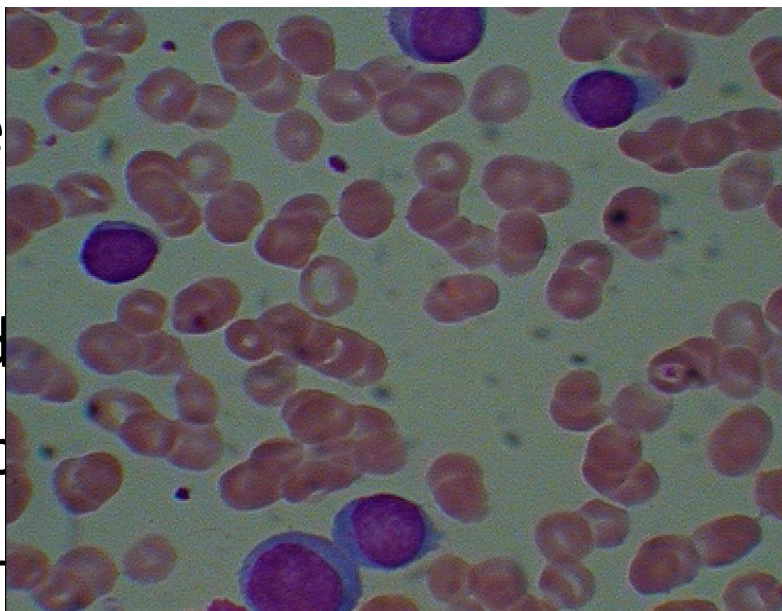
- |             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| • HB        | 7 GM %  |
| • MCV       | 91      |
| • MCH       | 28      |
| • MCHC      | 32      |
| • RBC COUNT | 1.3     |
| • WBC       | 6800    |
| • PLTS      | 357,000 |

Bone marrow examination

PURE RED CELL APLASIA

Case study 3  
Male 72 years

Retired professional  
Severe fatigue  
Dark urine  
Appears jaundiced  
Admitted for blood tests  
X match sent



Hb 6.9 gm%  
WBC 65400/cumm  
Plts 132,000  
MCV 98  
ALC 47,000/cumm

DCT positive  
ICT negative  
S IgG 400 MG/L  
RETIC 12%

FLOW CYTOMETRY S/O Chronic  
Lymphatic Leukaemia

Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia  
Responded to steroid + IVIgG  
therapy

No palpable LNs  
No organomegaly

**32 YEAR OLD MAN**

**Asymptomatic other than fatigue**

**Recurrent iron deficiency anaemia**

**Responds well to oral iron**

**But then recurs**

**What is your next step?**

- A**      **Continue replacement therapy**
- B**      **Observe**
- C**      **Endoscopy evaluation**
- D**      **Blood tests for malabsorption**

## Case study 4

**32 YEAR OLD MAN**

**Asymptomatic other than fatigue**

**Recurrent iron deficiency anaemia**

**Responds well to oral iron**

**But then recurs**

**What is your next step?**

CA Colon  
Resected  
No chemotherapy

- A** Continue replacement therapy
- B** Observe
- C** **Endoscopy evaluation**
- D** Blood tests for malabsorption

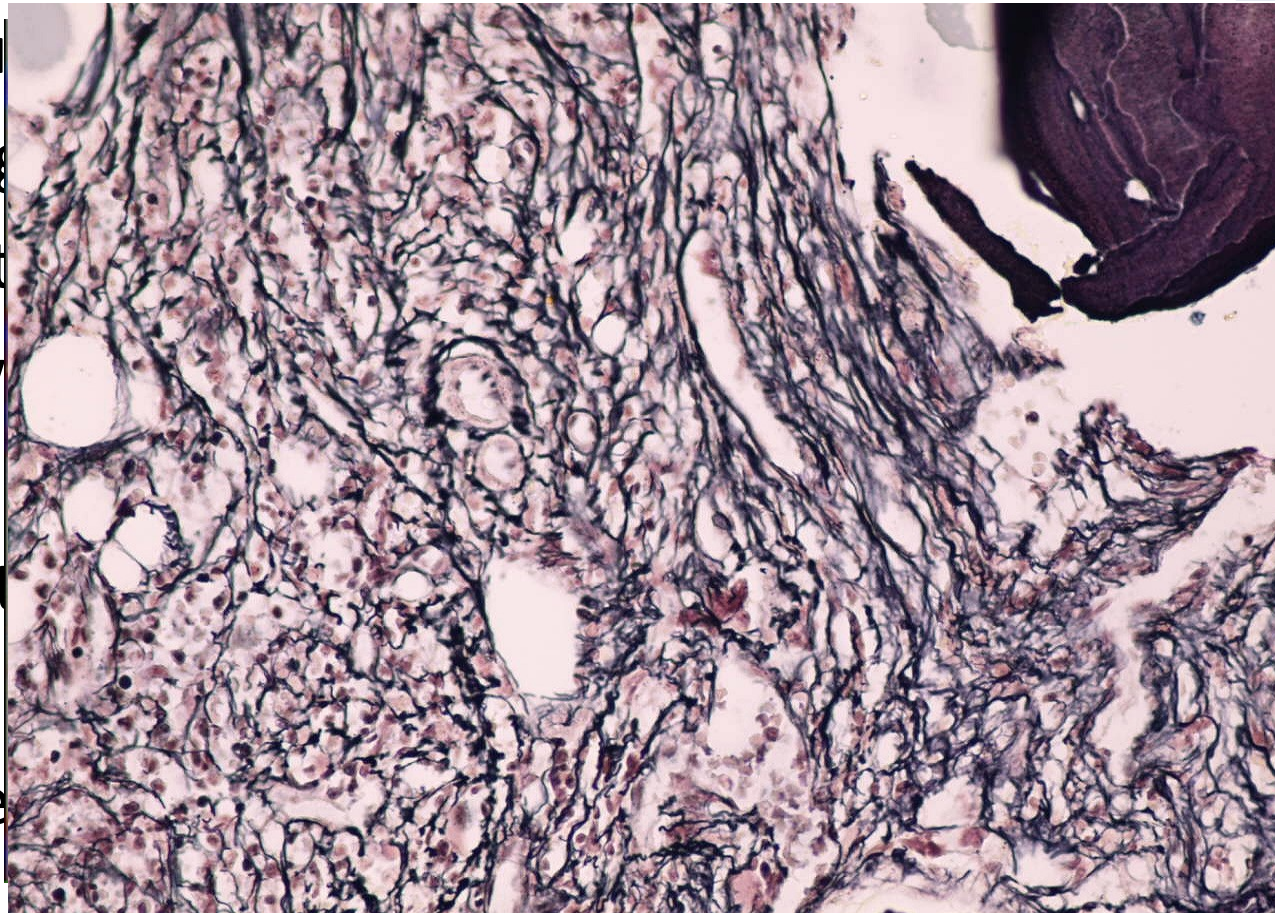


Case study 5  
Female 63 years

## Primary myelofibrosis

Hb 9.3 gm%  
WBC 4500/cumm  
Plts 153,000  
nRBCs 10/100WBC  
MCV 95  
Normal Diff

Normal LFT, creat



ASE 6 Male 68 years

- Weight loss 10 kg over 6 months of the lockdown
- No blood loss anywhere
- Drop in Hb from 11.8 gm% to 6.5 gm%
- Transfused for symptomatic anaemia
- Post transfusion Hb 10gm%
- Stool occult blood positive
- Colonoscopy repeated

**Angiodysplasia in the colon**

# COMMUNICATION / DISCUSSION/ opinions



## CONCLUSIONS:

Iron deficiency is an event for anaemia – not a diagnosis

Primary specialty faces anaemia- iron and vit B12 deficiency are the commonest

Do not miss a haemoglobinopathy – thalassaemia or sickle cell disease

Standardised approach with an automated CBC and well stained peripheral smear

How to assess cause of anaemia pathophysiology

Approach with relevant investigations (EBM)

Transfuse blood transfusion unless specific indication

Replacement therapy for iron / vit b12 / folate or EPO

Thorough examination as per indication

Identify underlying cause

Monitor response at intervals

Parenteral iron is gaining importance in IDA

Detecting beta thalassemia is extremely important to prevent thalassaemia major birth- HB electrophoresis, CFB, Amniotic cells

Using an algorithm for assessment of underlying cause of thalassaemia is necessary

In areas endemic to sickle cell or patients coming from such areas check for sickle cells



Thank you

“Approach to anaemia - A Clinician’s view” can be viewed on the Jaypee Publishers website

