## RBC disorders 2 Anemia of diminished production

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- Iron deficiency anemia
- Anemia of chronic disease
- Megaloblastic anemia
- Others
  - anemia in liver disease
  - anemia in renal disease
  - aplastic anemia
  - myelophthisic anemia

- 1. All of the following can be found in iron deficiency anemia, except:
  - A. Low ferritin
  - B. Low serum iron
  - C. Low TIBC
  - D. Low transferrin saturation
  - E. Low MCV

### 2. Anemia of chronic disease is caused by elevated levels of:

- A. Hepcidin
- B. Iron
- C. Ferritin
- D. B12
- E. neutrophils

3. All of the following are true regarding megaloblastic anemia, except:

A. defective DNA synthesis, resulting in nuclear immaturity

B. macrocytic anemia

C. can be seen in the setting of pernicious anemia

D. most common cause is nutritional deficiency of B12

E. can be associated with neurological symptoms in the case of B12 deficiency.

4. The most common cause of anemia in patients with liver disease is:

- A. Iron deficiency
- B. Hypersplenism
- C. Therapy related hemolytic anemia
- D. Therapy related suppression of EPO receptor
- E. Alcoholic-cirrhosis-induced folate deficiency

5. One of the following can cause myelophthisic anemia:

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. B12 deficiency
- C. Folate deficiency
- D. Iron deficiency
- E. Anemia of chronic disease.

# **Iron: Distribution**



- human body: 4–5 g iron (protein-bound)
- heme proteins (~72%)
  - hemoglobin (2.5 g)
  - myoglobin (0.15 g)
  - transport and storage proteins (~26%)
    - transferrin (1.0 g)
    - serum ferritin (0.0001 g)
  - iron–sulfur clusters (<1%)
    - cofactors in the respiratory chain, other redox chains

• Transferrin is the major transport protein in plasma and is normally one third occupied.

• Plasma ferritin is derived largely from the storage pool of body iron; its levels correlate well with body iron stores, if total iron is decreased ferritin will be low, and vice versa.

• Iron balance is maintained through absorption, excretion is limited to 1-2mg/day through shedding of mucosal cells.



### Iron deficiency anemia

Deficiency of iron is the most common nutritional disorder in the world and results in clinical signs and symptoms that are <u>mostly related to inadequate</u> <u>hemoglobin synthesis</u>.

- Iron deficiency can result from
  - (1) dietary
  - (2) impaired absorption,
  - (3) increased requirement,
  - (4) chronic blood loss.

### Question time!!!

- Which clinical scenario is more serious
  - A 19 year old lady, with sever menorrhagia presenting with shortness of breath on exertion, fatigue, pallor and a hemoglobin of 7.6g/dl, low MCV
  - A 79 year old asymptomatic gentleman who, on routine check up, was found to have a hemoglobin of 11g/dl and low MCV

# Think of anemia as you think of fever!!!

### pathogenesis

- Negative iron balance due to any reason
- Compensation by storage iron
- Progressive deficiency until complete depletion
- Anemia develops accompanied by low ferritin and low transferrin saturation

### morphology





### Clinical presentation

Symptoms and signs of anemia



### Lab findings

- Low hemoglobin and hematocrit
- Low MCV
- Low MCH
- Low iron levels
- Low ferritin
- High TIBC
- High RDW
- Low hepcidin
- Low transferrin saturation

• Treat by iron supplementation and treating the underlying cause.

### Anemia of chronic disease

- Anemia of chronic disease is impaired red cell production associated with <u>chronic diseases that</u> <u>produce systemic inflammation</u>
- The most common cause of <u>anemia among</u> <u>hospitalized</u> patients

• Examples include chronic microbial inflammation, autoimmune inflammation, and malignancy.



### <sup>•</sup> IL6 results in increased hepcidin

- Starves the EP cells of iron.
- Inhibits erythropoietin and subsequently decreases EP proliferation

• Possible immunologic role for hepcidin

### Clinical presentation

- Mild anemia
- Signs and symptoms of underlying disease

### Lab findings

- Low HB and Hct
- Can be hypochromic microcytic or normochromic normocytic.
- <u>High ferritin and low TIBC</u> (exactly opposite to iron deficiency anemia)

### Megaloblastic anemia



Vitamin B12 or folate deficiency

### Biochemical role of B12





Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> Deficiency Decreased Intake Inadequate diet, vegetarianism Impaired Absorption Intrinsic factor deficiency Pernicious anemia Gastrectomy Malabsorption states Diffuse intestinal disease (e.g., lymphoma, systemic sclerosis) Ileal resection, ileitis Competitive parasitic uptake Fish tapeworm infestation Bacterial overgrowth in blind loops and diverticula of bowel

### Pernicious anemia

Autoimmune attack on gastric mucosa.

three types of antibodies

1-parietal canalicular antibodies

2-blocking antibodies

3-intrinsic factor–B12 complex antibodies

### Clinical manifestations

- Related to anemia similar to those found in folate deficiency
- Additionally, leukopenia with hypersemented neutrophils can be seen
- Neurological symptoms:
  - Numbness
  - Unsteady gate
  - Loss of position sense
- Increase risk of malignancy in patient with pernicious anemia



### Folic Acid Deficiency

### Decreased Intake

Inadequate diet, alcoholism, infancy Impaired Absorption Malabsorption states Intrinsic Intestinal disease Anticonvulsants, oral contraceptives Increased Loss Hemodialysis

Increased Requirement

Pregnancy, Infancy, disseminated cancer, markedly increased hematopolesis

Impaired Utilization

Folic acid antagonists

Unresponsive to Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> or Folic Acid Therapy

Metabolic Inhibitors of DNA Synthesis and/or Folate Metabolism (e.g., Methotrexate)

### Clinical manifestations

- Nonspecific symptoms of anemia, weakness, fatigue...etc
- GI symptoms due to the effect on GI epithelial lining cells.
- NO neurological symptoms
- Diagnose by serum and RBC folate levels.
# Anemia in liver disease

- Multiple etiologies:
  - Iron deficiency is the most common
  - Hypersplenism
  - Therapy related hemolytic anemia and suppression of EPO receptor
  - Alcoholic-cirrhosis-induced folate deficiency

# Spur cells

# Anemia of renal disease

- Related to decrease EPO production by the damaged kidney.
- High levels of inflammatory cytokines
- Hemolysis
- Chronic bleeding
- Folate deficiency in patients on dialysis.

# ecchinocytes



# Aplastic anemia

Aplastic anemia refers to a syndrome of chronic primary **hematopoietic failure** and attendant **pancytopenia** (anemia, neutropenia, and thrombocytopenia)

### Acquired

Idiopathic Acquired stem cell defects Immune mediated

### Chemical Agents

Dose related Alkylating agents Antimetabolites Benzene Chloramphenicol Inorganic arsenicals Idiosyncratic Chloramphenicol Phenylbutazone Organic arsenicals Methylphenylethylhydantoin Carbamazepine Penicillamine Gold salts

### Physical Agents

Whole-body irradiation Viral Infections Hepatitis (unknown virus) Cytomegalovirus infections Epstein-Barr virus infections Herpes zoster (varicella zoster)

### Inherited

Fanconi anemia Telomerase defects

## Pathogenesis of aplastic anemia





# Clinical features

- Any age with no gender predilection
- Stigmata of pancytopenia
- Normocytic and occasionally macrocytic anemia.
- No splenomegaly
- No increased reticulocyte count
- Bone marrow exam is a must for diagnosis
- Respond well to immunosuppressive therapy, BM transplantation is the treatment of choice with 5 year survival of more than 75%.

# Myelophthisic anemia

Extensive infiltration of the marrow by tumors or other lesions.

- Metastatic cancer (lung, breast, prostate)
- Tuberculosis
- Lipid storage disorders
- Osteoscelrosis
- Leukoerythroblastic reaction on peripheral blood.



1-tear drop RBC2-immature erythroid precursor cell3-immture myeloid cell

- Patients present with anemia and thrombocytopenia
- WBC are usually less affected.

• Treatment is directed at the underlying etiology.

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- D. B12
- E. Neutrophils

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- D. Iron deficiency
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