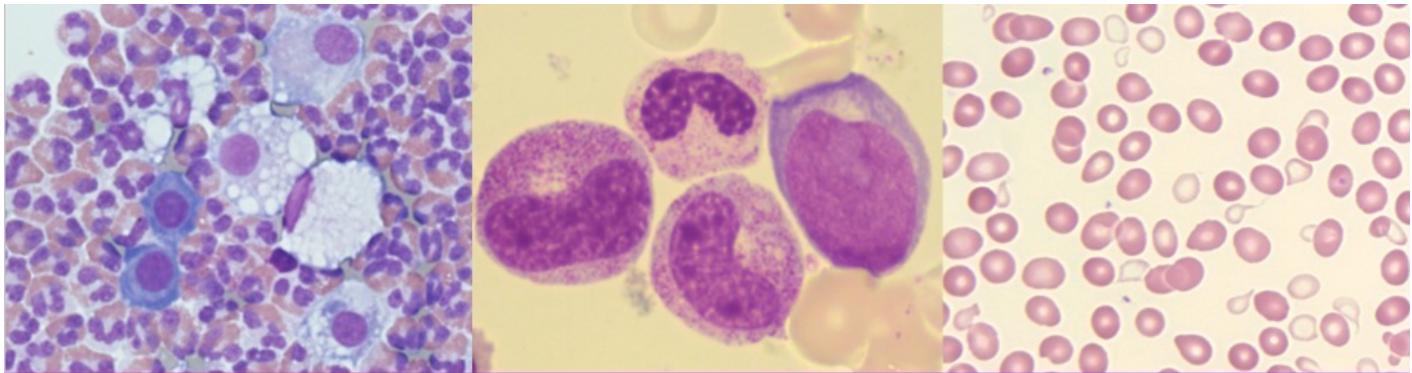


# A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Hematology

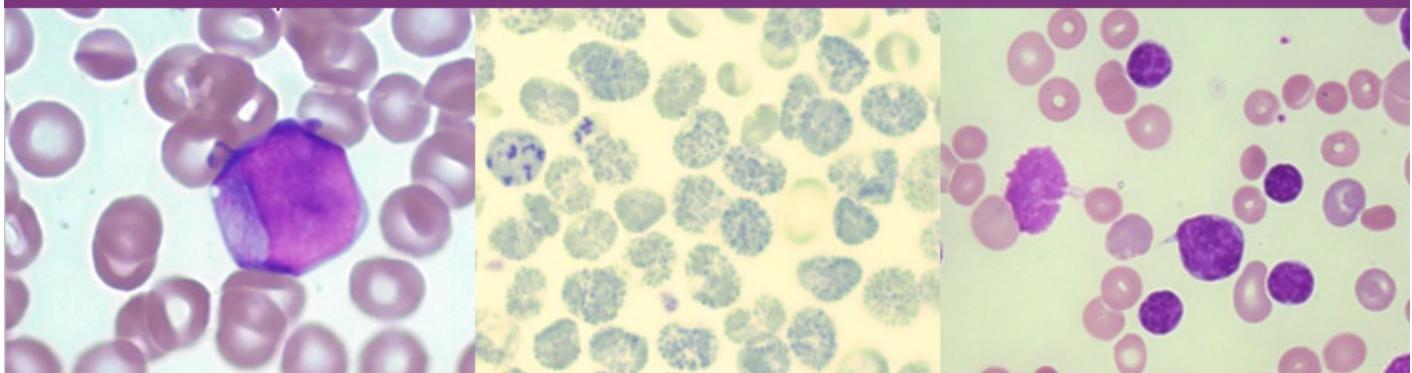


# A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Hematology

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1<sup>st</sup> Edition

Valentin Villatoro & Michelle To



# A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Hematology

# A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Hematology

*VALENTIN VILLATORO AND MICHELLE TO*

EDMONTON

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# Authors & Editors

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

## **Author**

**Michelle To**

Student

Division of Medical Laboratory Science

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

## **Author & Editor**

**Valentin (Tino) Villatoro, MEd (HSE), BSc (MLS), MLT**

Assistant Professor & Clinical Coordinator

Division of Medical Laboratory Science

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

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This eBook will be constantly updated, edited, and reviewed as new emerging information arises. Should you have any suggestions, feedback, questions, or corrections regarding the content of this eBook, please contact Valentin (Tino) Villatoro. His contact information is listed below:

Email: [valentin@ualberta.ca](mailto:valentin@ualberta.ca)

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# ERA: Education and Research Archive

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  - 3c.** Shows the topics discussed within a particular chapter
  
- 4.** Static images related to a particular topic
  - 4a.** Shows the image itself
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**7.** References for each topic are located at the bottom of the page.

# Common Abbreviations Used

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Below is a list of abbreviations commonly used in this eBook:

---

RBC	Red Blood Cell
WBC	White Blood Cell
PLT	Platelet
BM	Bone Marrow
PBS	Peripheral Blood Smear
CBC	Complete Blood Count
MCV	Mean Cell Volume
MCH	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin
MCHC	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentration
RDW	Red Cell Distribution Width
Hb	Hemoglobin
Hct	Hematocrit
RETIC	Reticulocyte
nRBC	Nucleated Red Blood Cell
TIBC	Total Iron Binding Capacity
M:E	Myeloid to Erythroid Ratio
N:C	Nuclear to Cytoplasmic Ratio
LD	Lactate Dehydrogenase
EVH	Extravascular Hemolysis
IVH	Intravascular Hemolysis
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
DAT	Direct Antiglobulin Test
IAT	Indirect Antiglobulin Test
CD	Cluster of Differentiation/Designation
WHO	World Health Organization

---

I

# RED BLOOD CELLS: NORMAL MORPHOLOGY

# 1

# Red Blood Cell Maturation

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## Pronormoblast (Rubriblast, Proerythroblast)

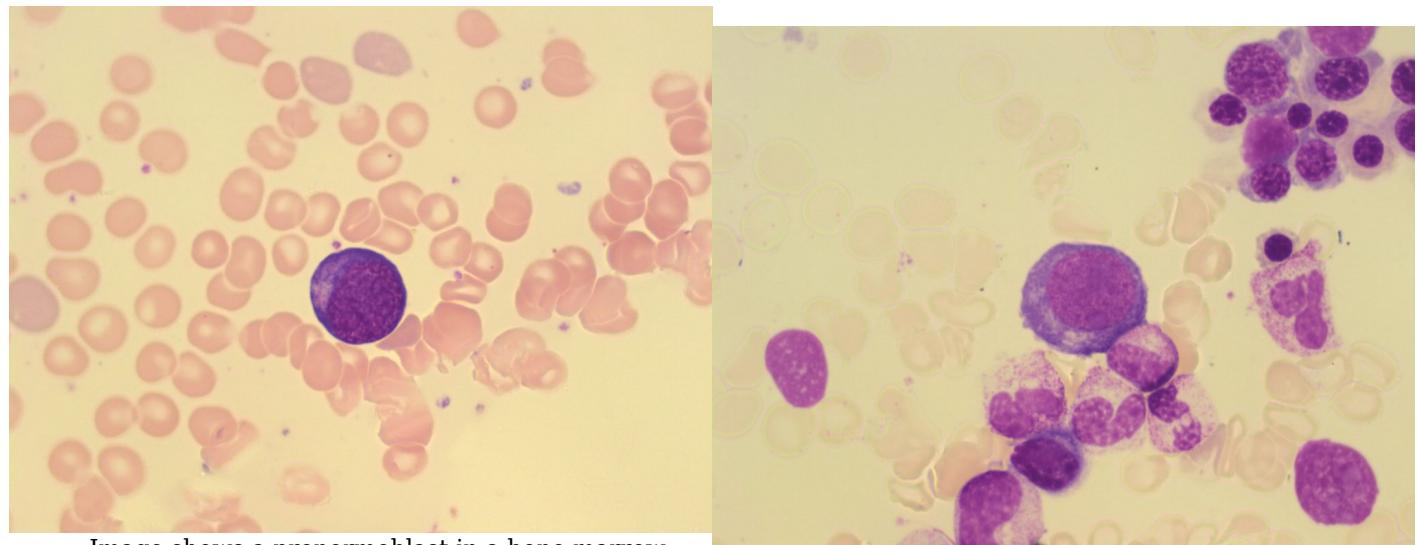


Image shows a pronormoblast in a bone marrow smear. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3S46HN49>

Image taken from a bone marrow smear shows a pronormoblast in the center. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3KW5803R>

**Notes:** Largest of the RBC maturation series<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 8:1 (High)<sup>1,2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** 0-2<sup>2,3</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Round to oval, central

Fine, homogeneous chromatin

Reddish-blue colour under Wright stain

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Small to moderate amount of cytoplasm

Dark blue cytoplasm (due to large RNA content)

Golgi may be seen (pale area next to the nucleus)

---

**% in Bone Marrow:** 1% <sup>1-3</sup>

---

## Basophilic Normoblast (Prorubricyte, Basophilic Erythroblast)

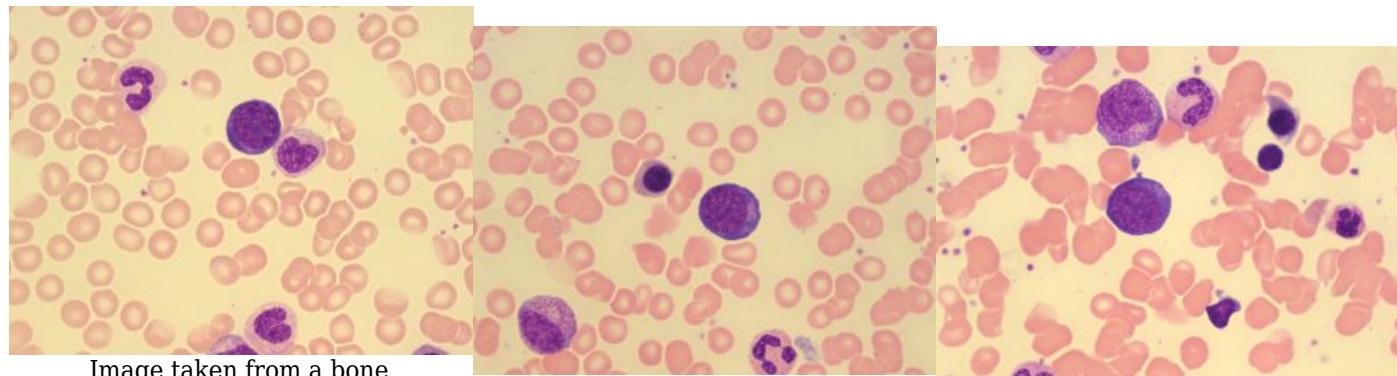


Image taken from a bone marrow smear shows a basophilic normoblast (center top). A metameylocyte is

Image taken from a bone marrow smear shows a basophilic normoblast in the

Image taken from a bone marrow smear shows a

present on the right of the cell.  
From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3PC2T>  
Q99

center. 100x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R38C9R>  
K46

basophilic normoblast in the  
center. 100x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HX16>  
62B

**Notes:** Smaller than Pronormoblasts <sup>3</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 6:1 <sup>1</sup>

**Nucleoli:** 0-1 <sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:** <sup>1-3</sup>

Round to slightly oval, central

Chromatin is coarser and slightly clumped

Dark violet in colour

Indistinct nuclei or not visible

**Cytoplasm:** <sup>1,2</sup>

Dark blue (due to large RNA content)

May see a perinuclear halo (unstained mitochondria)

May have a slight pink tinge due to the production of hemoglobin

**% in Bone Marrow:** 1-5% <sup>3</sup>

## Polychromatic Normoblast (Rubricyte, Polychromatic Erythroblast)

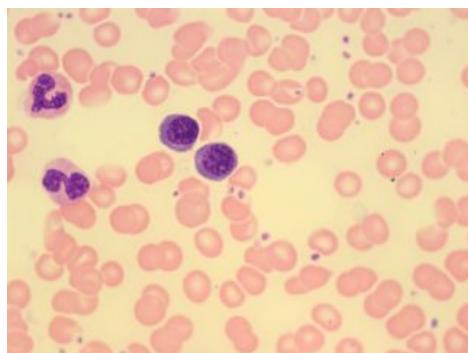
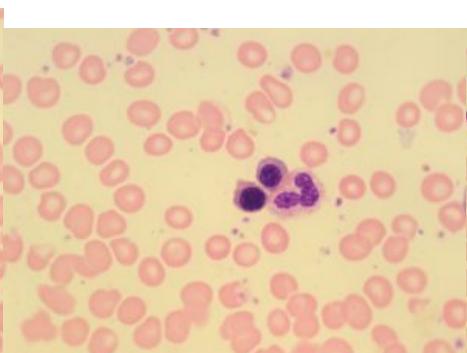


Image taken from a bone marrow smear demonstrating two polychromatic normoblasts in the center. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3C53F> G8N



An image taken from a bone marrow smear showing two polychromatic normoblasts (left) beside a neutrophil (right). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MP4W36V>

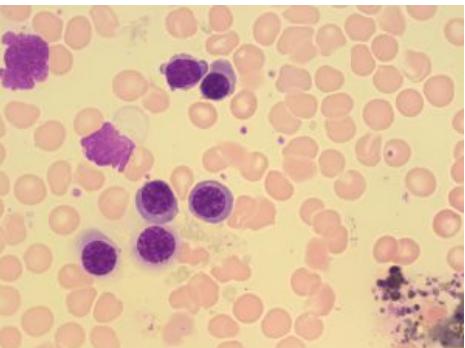


Image taken from a bone marrow smear showing multiple polychromatic normoblasts. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R31J97Q0D>

**Notes:** Last RBC maturation stage capable of mitosis <sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 4:1 <sup>1-3</sup>

**Nucleoli:** None <sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:** <sup>1-3</sup>

Round, eccentric

Chromatin is coarse, irregularly clumped

**Cytoplasm:** <sup>1,2</sup>

Abundant

Gray-blue to pink (due to hemoglobin production and RNA content)

**% in Bone Marrow:** 5-30% <sup>3</sup>

**% in Peripheral Blood:** Normally NOT present in the peripheral blood but some may be seen in the peripheral blood smears of newborns.<sup>3</sup>

---

## Orthochromic Normoblast (Metarubricyte, Orthochromatic Erythroblast)

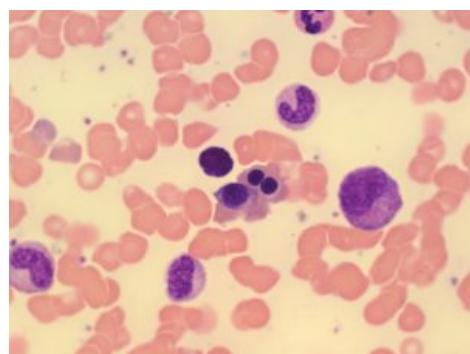


Image taken from a bone marrow smear showing two orthochromic normoblasts in the center right. Note the dark staining nucleus and condensed chromatin. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection,

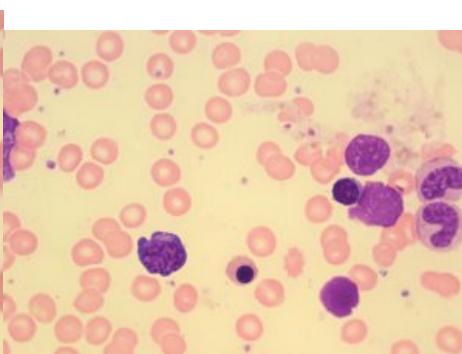
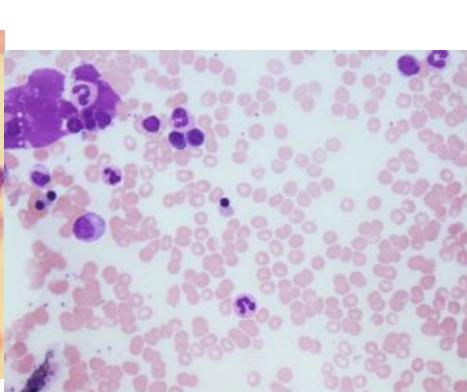


Image taken from a bone marrow smear showing an orthochromic normoblast in the center bottom. Note the dark staining nucleus and condensed chromatin. 100x oil immersion.



An image from a bone marrow smear showing an orthochromic normoblast (center) ejecting its condensed nucleus. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection,

University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R30Z71>  
C0H

From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3W669>  
Q5T

University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3599Z>  
H3P

**Notes:** The smallest RBC precursor and incapable of further DNA synthesis at this stage.<sup>3</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 1:1 (Low)<sup>3</sup>

**Nucleoli:** None<sup>2-3</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Round, eccentric

Fully condensed chromatin with pyknotic features

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

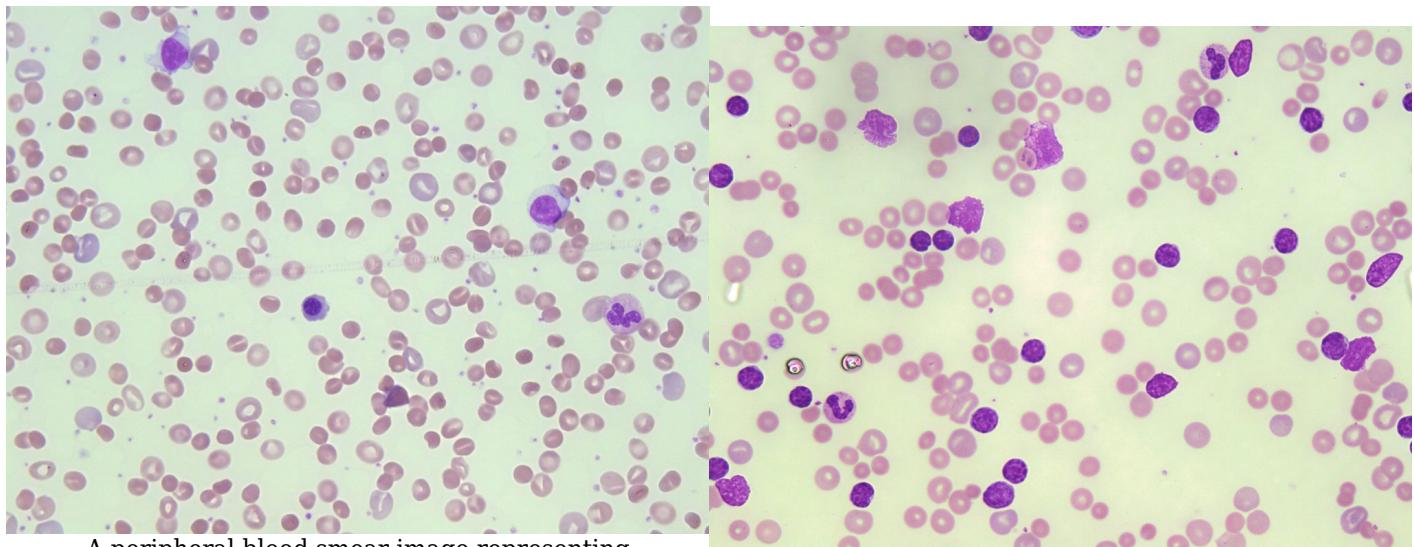
Pink or salmon; May appear slightly blue due to residual RNA

**% in Bone Marrow:** 5-10%<sup>2</sup>

**% in Peripheral Blood:** Normally NOT present in the peripheral blood but some may be seen in the peripheral blood smears of newborns.<sup>3</sup>

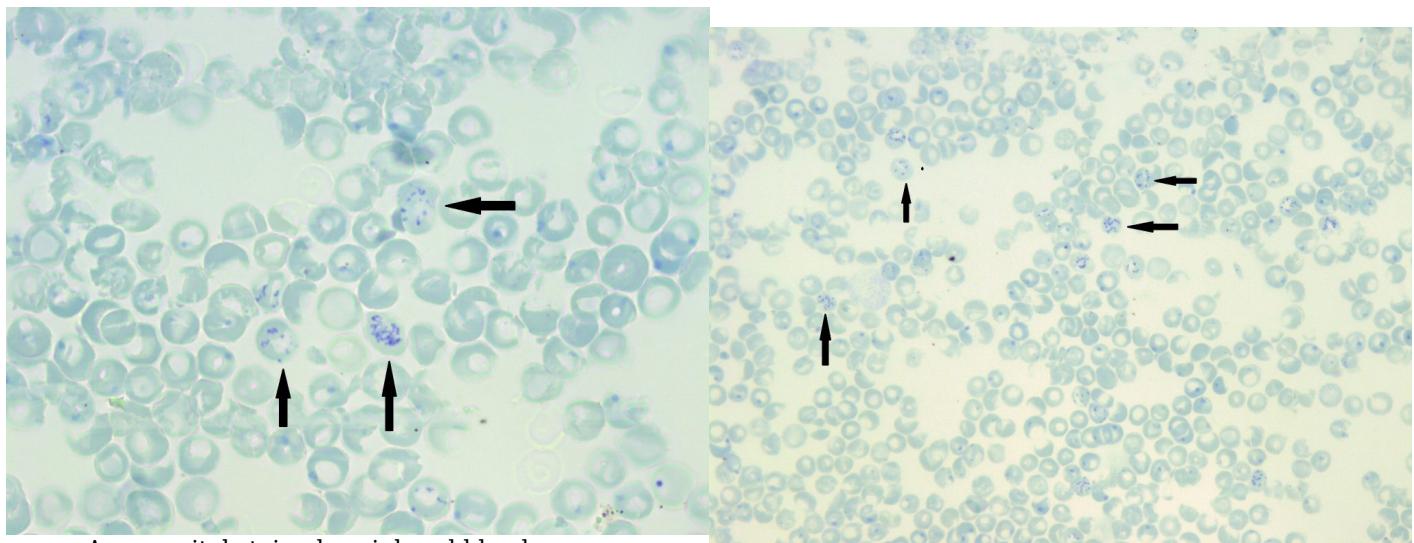
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# Reticulocyte (Polychromatic Erythrocyte, Diffusely Basophilic Erythrocyte)



A peripheral blood smear image representing hereditary spherocytosis. Marked polychromasia is present representing increased amounts of reticulocytes. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3N873F1Q>

A image of a CLL peripheral blood smear showing polychromasia in numerous red blood cells. The polychromasia represents reticulocytes. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3513VB2P>



A supravital stained peripheral blood smear showing multiple reticulocytes (indicated by arrows). Note the blue stained reticulum resembling "beads on a string". 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R31G0J94K>

An image from a peripheral blood smear stained with a supravital stain showing Heinz Body inclusions (large single blue inclusions) and reticulocytes containing dark-blue linear chains of granulation. New methylene blue. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3WP9TN91>

**Notes:** the nucleus has now been expelled from the cell, residual RNA gives the cell a polychromatic appearance. The use of supravital stains can help to identify and enumerate Reticulocytes by visualizing reticular inclusions (linear granulation, with a “beads on a string” appearance, see figure below). (Har ch 1 pg 13)

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Cytoplasm:** <sup>2,3</sup>

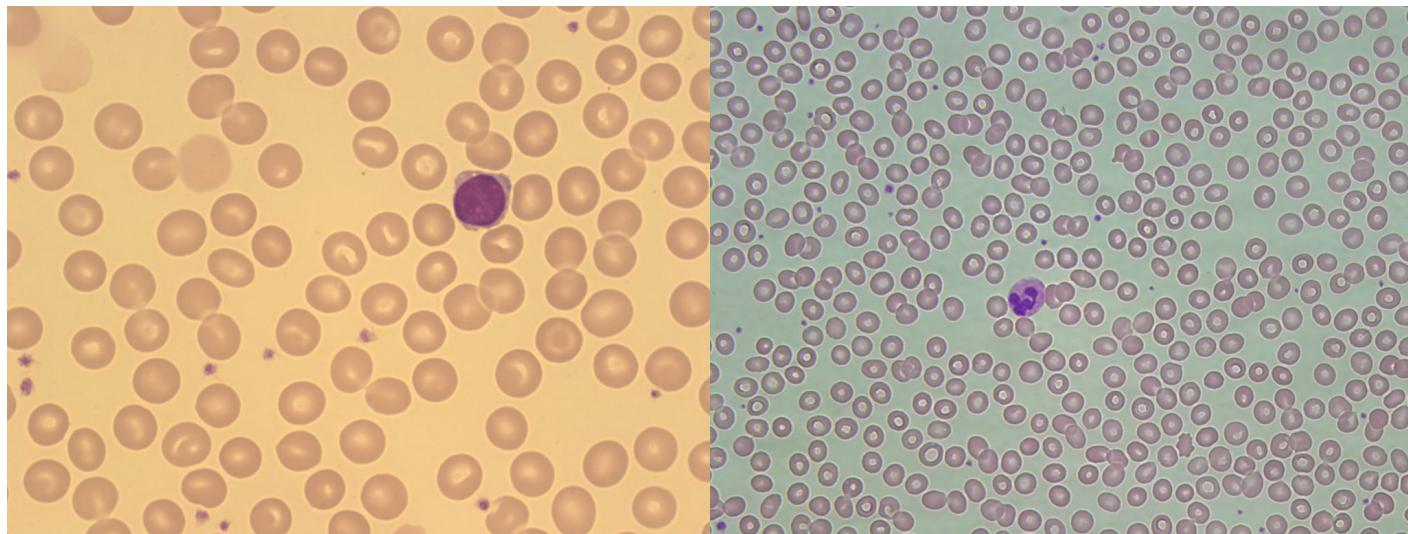
Light blue-purple to pink (due to residual RNA content and high hemoglobin content)

**% in Bone Marrow:** 1%<sup>2</sup>

**% in Peripheral Blood:** 0.5-2%<sup>2</sup>

---

## Erythrocyte (Discocyte)



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing normochromic, normocytic red blood cells. A small lymphocyte is present for comparison. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3W669Q69>

An image from a peripheral blood smear showing normal mature erythrocytes. A neutrophil is present for size comparison. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R32J68K44>

**Notes:** The mature red blood cell is biconcave in shape and lacks ribosomes and mitochondria; therefore, it lacks the ability to synthesize proteins such as hemoglobin and enzymes such as G6PD.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>2-3</sup>

Pink-salmon colour with an area of central spanning one-third of the diameter. Cell should contain no inclusions.

**% in Bone Marrow:** N/A <sup>2</sup>

**% in Peripheral Blood:** Predominant <sup>2</sup>

---

## References:

1. Robinson S, Hubbard J. The erythrocyte. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 59-76.
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## 2

# Red Blood Cell Indices, Colour, and Size

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

## RBC Indices

Red blood cell indices are useful parameters when investigating suspected anemia. They help provide a general idea of the clinical picture, predict the red blood cell appearance, and aid in the classification of anemia. These indices may be calculated using the red blood cell count, hematocrit, and hemoglobin values generated by automated hematology analyzers, or directly measured in the case of MCV, depending on the model of instrument being used.<sup>1,2</sup>

### 1. Mean Cell Volume (MCV)

$$\text{MCV}(\text{fL}, 10\text{x}^{-15}\text{L}) = \frac{\text{Hct(L/L)}}{\text{RBC Count(x10-12/L)}} \times 1000$$

RBC Count(x10-12/L)

\***Reference range:** 80-100 fL

MCV is the measurement of the average red blood cell volume and is used to classify red blood cells based on size<sup>3,4</sup>

---

<80 fL	Microcytic
80-100 fL	Normocytic
>100 fL	Macrocytic

---

**Note:** If the MCV is measured directly, it may be increased if there are many reticulocytes present.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Mean Cell Hemoglobin (MCH)

$$\text{MCH (pg, } 10\text{x}^{-12}\text{g)} = \frac{\text{Hb(g/L)}}{\text{RBC Count (x10-12/L)}}$$

**\*Reference range:** 28-36 pg

MCH is the measurement of the average hemoglobin weight in a red blood cell.<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Mean Cell Hemoglobin Concentration (MCHC)

$$\text{MCHC (g/L)} = \frac{\text{Hb(g/L)}}{\text{Hct (L/L)}}$$

**\*Reference range:** 310-360 g/L

MCHC is the measurement of the hemoglobin concentration in a population of red blood cells. This is used to denote the colour of the red blood cell population.<sup>3,5</sup>

---

<310 g/L	Hypochromic
310-360 g/L	Normochromic
>360 g/L	Check for spherocytes or errors in Hb/Hct measurement (interferences)

---

## 4. Red Blood Cell Distribution Width (RDW)

RDW is the coefficient of variation or standard deviation of the MCV. Similar to the RBC indices, it is determined by automated cell counting instruments and is used to predict the degree of red blood cell size variation, known as anisocytosis.<sup>24</sup>

An increase in the RDW would indicate a higher presence of anisocytosis on the peripheral blood smear.<sup>24</sup>

A decrease in the RDW is not associated with any known abnormalities.<sup>24</sup>

**\*Reference range:** 11.5-14.5%

\*Please be aware that the reference ranges provided in this book were obtained from multiple sources and may not accurately reflect the values used in your laboratory. References ranges vary depending on institution, patient population, methodology and instrumentation. Laboratories should establish their own ranges based on these factors for their own use.

---

## Size

As previously described, MCV is used to classify red blood cells based on their size.

### 1. Normocytic RBCs

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=88>

*Peripheral blood smears showing normochromic, normocytic red blood cells. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 100x oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3RJ4995W>

*Image 2: 60x oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R35M62P2N>

The MCV of normocytic RBCs fall within the normal reference ranges of 80-100 fL and the size should

be around 7-8 $\mu\text{m}$ .<sup>6,7</sup>

**Size comparison:** Mature red blood cells are about the size of the nucleus of a small lymphocyte. It is also approximately three normal red blood cells should fit within a normal neutrophil.<sup>6</sup>

## 2. Microcytic RBCs

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*

<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=88>

*Peripheral blood smear images show numerous microcytic red blood cells. A small lymphocyte is present and can be used for a size comparison. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3599ZH07>*

*Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3WS8J199>*

A microcytic red blood cell measures less than 7-8 $\mu\text{m}$ , and has an MCV that is <80 fL. The hemoglobin concentration (MCHC) can be normal or decreased, and can help differentiate different clinical conditions or severities of anemia.

Microcytes are commonly seen with any abnormalities involving hemoglobin synthesis and thus cells often also appear hypochromic.<sup>3,6,7</sup>

**Size comparison:** Microcytes are smaller than the size of the nucleus of a normal small lymphocyte. If a normal neutrophil is being used for comparison, more than three microcytes can easily fit in a normal neutrophil.

**Associated Disease/Clinical States<sup>7,8</sup>:**

**TAILS:**

Thalassemias

Anemia of chronic inflammation

Iron Deficiency Anemia

Lead poisoning

Sideroblastic Anemia

### 3. Macrocytic RBCs (Round/Oval)



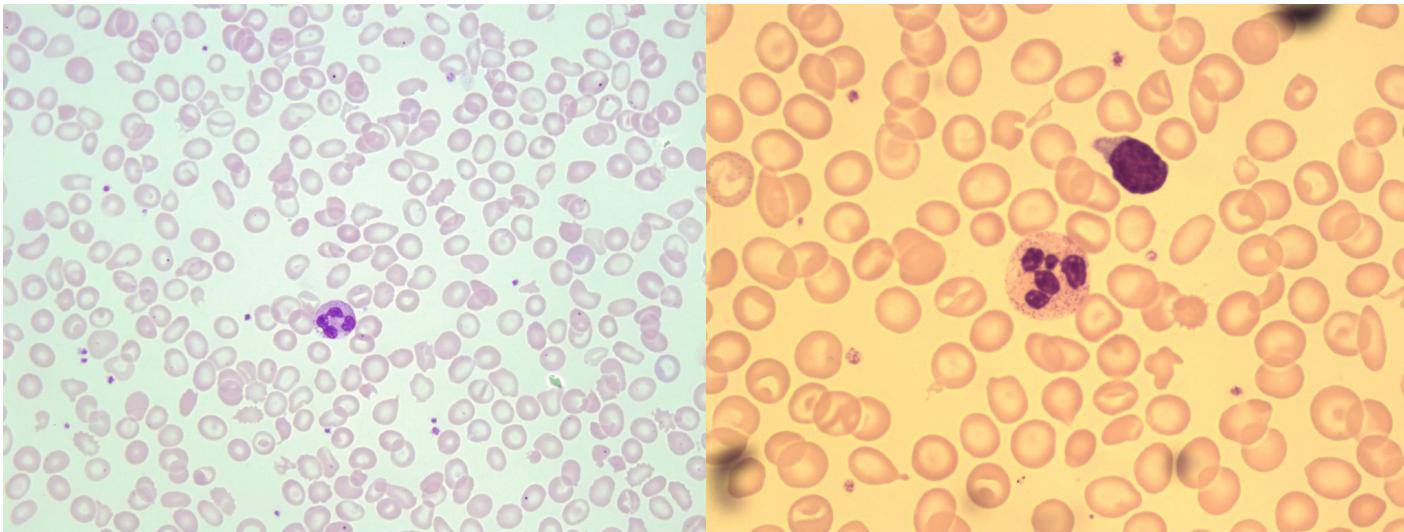
Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

Image shows the presence of oval macrocytes. A small lymphocyte is present for a size comparison. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R32J68K7K>



Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

A peripheral blood smear containing multiple oval macrocytes. A neutrophil and small lymphocyte are present for size comparison. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3T14V49N>



An image taken from a peripheral blood smear with round macrocytes present. A neutrophil is present for a size comparison. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3W08WX8P>

An image from a peripheral blood smear containing macrocytes and poikilocytosis. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R33R0Q86J>

Red blood cells that are  $\geq 9\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and have an MCV that is  $>100 \text{ fL}$  are considered macrocytic. Macrocytes can appear as either round or oval, which can help differentiate the underlying abnormality or disease that may be present.<sup>3,6,7</sup>

<b>Shape</b>	<b>MCV</b>	<b>Associated Disease/Clinical State(s)<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Oval Macrocytes</b>	Usually $>110 \text{ fL}$	Megaloblastic Anemia (Impaired DNA Synthesis)
<b>Round Macrocytes</b>	100-110 fL	Non-megaloblastic Anemias (stimulated erythropoiesis) Liver Disease Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

**Size comparison:** Macrocytes are larger than normal small lymphocytes. The RBCs are large, therefore you cannot fit three within a single normal neutrophil.

## 4. Anisocytosis

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=88>

Images of peripheral blood smears showing anisocytosis (microcytes and normocytes are present). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3Q81574N>

Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3ZS2KV2F>

Anisocytosis is a term used to describe variation in red blood cell size in a peripheral blood smear. The degree of anisocytosis should correlate with the Red Blood Cell Distribution Width (RDW).<sup>7</sup>

**Note:** If there is a wide variation of cell sizes present (microcytes and macrocytes), the MCV may appear normal as it represents the average cell volume.<sup>3</sup>

## Colour

As previously discussed, MCHC can be used to determine the “colour” of the red blood cell population based on the average hemoglobin concentration.<sup>3</sup>

## 1. Normal (Normochromic) Red Blood Cells

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=88>

An image from a peripheral blood smear showing normochromic, normocytic red blood cells. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3H12VP79>

Image 2: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MS3KH27>

Red blood cells appear normal with an area of central pallor spanning approximately one-third of the diameter of the cell. MCHC and MCH are within normal ranges and cells are referred to as being “Normochromic”.<sup>7</sup>

MCHC: 310-360 g/L

## 2. Hypochromic Cells

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=88>

A peripheral blood smear demonstrating hypochromic red blood cells. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3XS5JX94>

Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3930P92Z>

Image 3: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JH3DH6Q>

Red blood cells have an area of central pallor that is greater than one-third of the diameter of the cell.<sup>6</sup> The enlarged area of central pallor is due to a lack of hemoglobin content as a result of decreased hemoglobin synthesis.<sup>3,4</sup>

The MCHC is the most appropriate RBC index to use when determining hypochromia, as the MCH is not as specific.<sup>3,4</sup>

Hypochromia is often seen with microcytosis and thus have similar associated clinical and disease states.<sup>6</sup>

MCHC: <310 g/L.

#### **Associated Disease/Clinical States<sup>6</sup>:**

TAILS:

Thalassemias

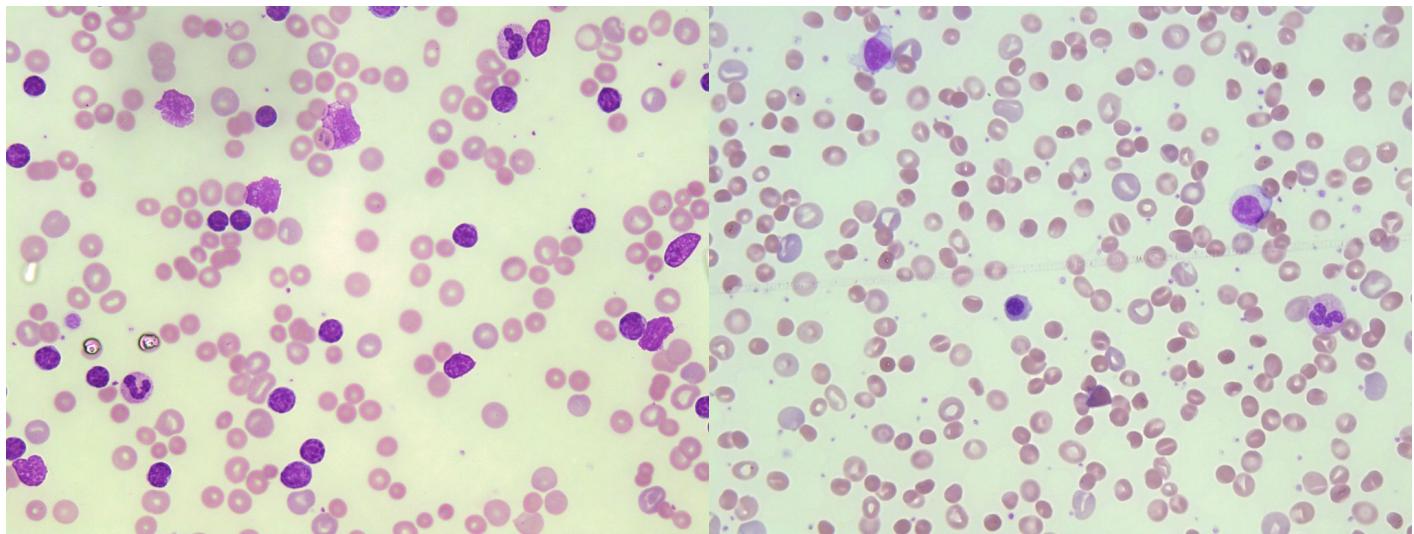
Anemia of chronic inflammation

Iron Deficiency Anemia

Lead poisoning

Sideroblastic Anemia

## **3. Polychromasia**



A image of a CLL peripheral blood smear showing polychromasia in numerous red blood cells. The polychromasia represents reticulocytes. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3513VB2P>

A peripheral blood smear image representing hereditary spherocytosis. Marked polychromasia is present representing increased amounts of reticulocytes. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3N873F1Q>

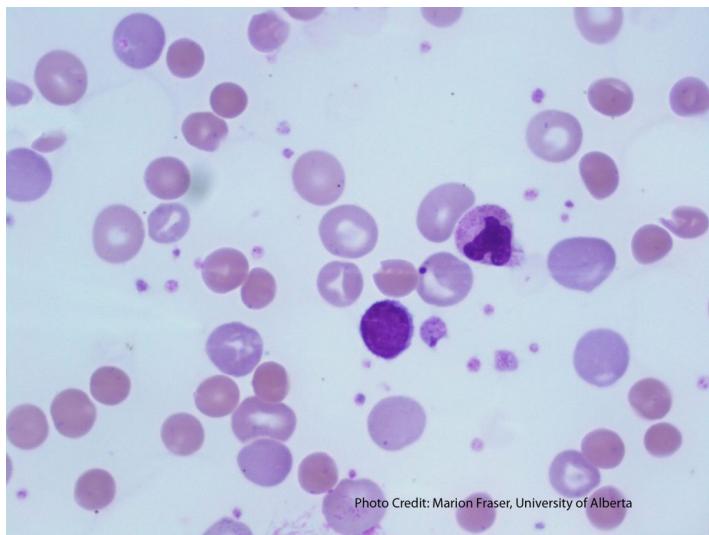
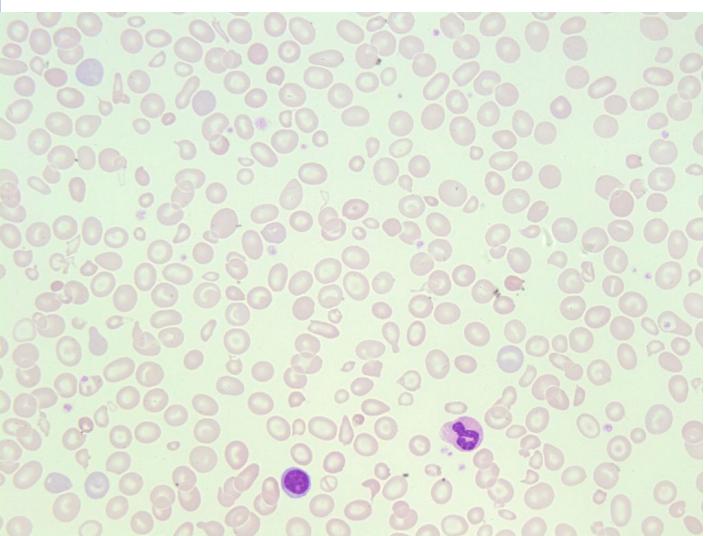


Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

A peripheral blood smear demonstrating increased polychromasia (Stained pale blue-purple). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3DZ03H3N>



A peripheral blood smear showing a some polychromasia. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3CN6ZF3Z>

The appearance of increased polychromasia on a peripheral blood smear is associated with increased red blood cell production and an increased reticulocyte count. Polychromatic cells are larger than mature red blood cells and have a blue-gray color due to the presence of residual RNA in immature red blood cells.<sup>3,9</sup>

Polychromatic cells are referred to as a “reticulocyte” when the cells are stained with a supravital stain such as New Methylene Blue. The supravital stain precipitates residual RNA, causing reticulocytes to have inclusions of linear chains of granulation (reticulum).<sup>7,9</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>6</sup>**

Hemorrhage

Hemolysis

Neonates

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## **References:**

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2. Hughes VC. Hematology methods. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 759-792.
3. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
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5. Clark KS, Hippel TC. Manual, semiautomated, and point-of-care testing in hematology. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 187-234).
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8. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>

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II

# RED BLOOD CELLS: ABNORMAL RBC MORPHOLOGY

# 3

# Poikilocytosis

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=131>

*Peripheral blood smears demonstrating marked poikilocytosis. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3KD1R163>*

*Image 2: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3RV0DG2H>*

## **General Peripheral Blood Smear Description:**

Poikilocytosis is a general term used to describe the collective presence of various abnormal red blood cell shapes on a peripheral blood smear. Normal red blood cell morphology is described in the previous two chapters but under certain clinical conditions, they can take on various shapes or morphologies. When certain red blood cell shapes are predominant, this may be associated with specific disease states.<sup>1-3</sup>

## **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>3-4</sup>

Hemolytic anemias

Thalassemia

Myelofibrosis

Hereditary pyropoikilocytosis

**Note:** See the rest of the chapter for other disease states related to a specific predominant abnormal

morphology.

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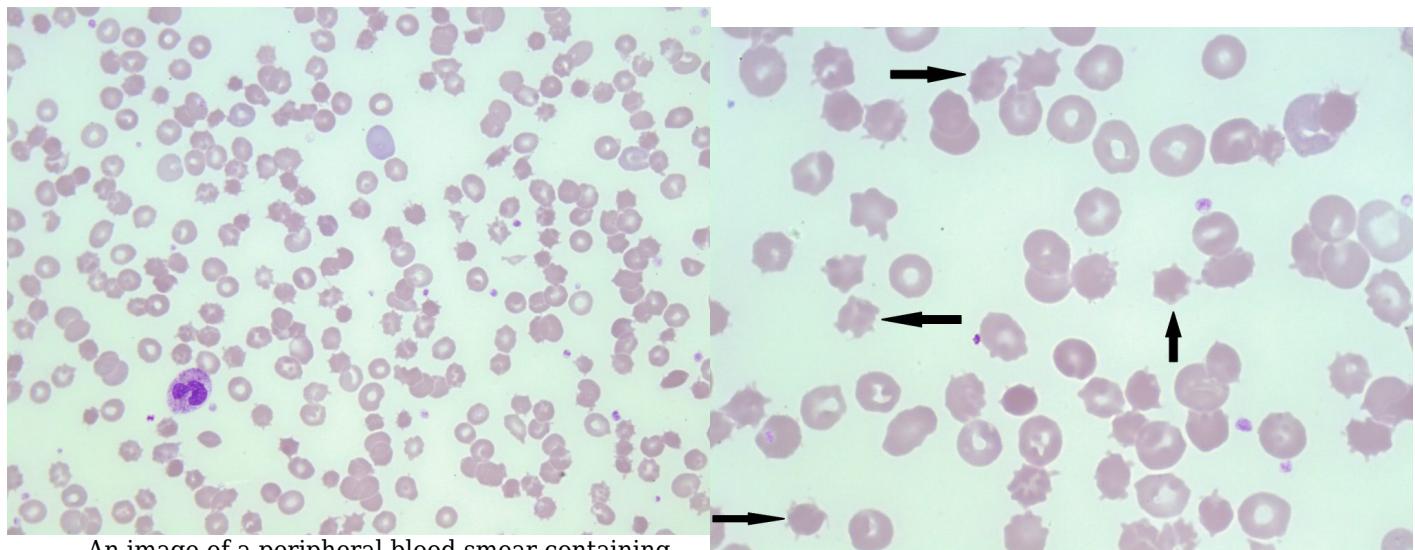
## References:

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
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# 4

## Acanthocytes (Spur Cells)

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An image of a peripheral blood smear containing some acanthocytes. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MP4W32X>

An image of a peripheral blood smear containing some acanthocytes (examples shown with arrows). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MP4W32X>

### Cell Description:

Red blood cells appear small and dense, lacking an area of central pallor with multiple spiky projections (spicules) of varying lengths protruding from the membrane. Projections are irregularly distributed around the cell membrane.<sup>1-3</sup>

### Cell Formation:

Acanthocyte formation occurs as a result of either hereditary or acquired membrane defects. Defects that cause an imbalance between the membrane cholesterol and lipid content affect the RBC's ability to deform resulting in more rigid plasma membrane. Red blood cells are then remodelled in circulation, resulting in an acanthocyte.<sup>1,3,4</sup>

**Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1-5</sup>

Abetalipoproteinemia (Inherited)

Lecithin-cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT) Deficiency

Liver Disease

Post-splenectomy

Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency

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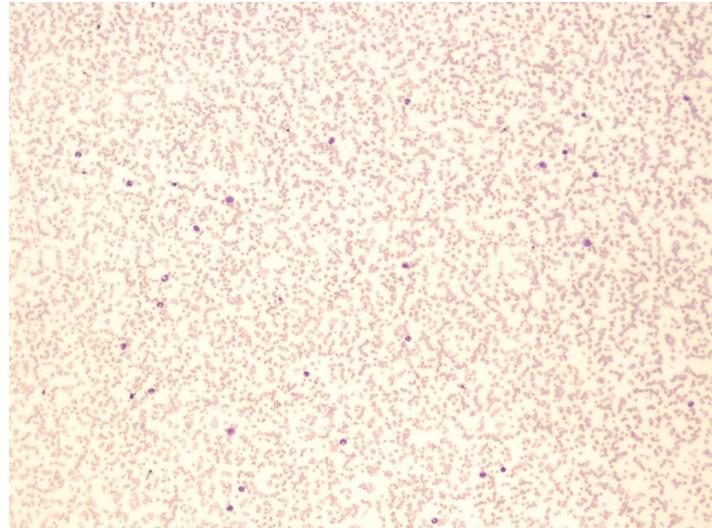
## References:

1. Cochran-Black D. Hemolytic anemia: membrane defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 317-33.
2. Manchanda N. Anemias: red blood morphology and approach to diagnosis. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 284-96.
3. Turgeon ML. Normal erythrocyte lifecycle and physiology. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 71-98
4. Harmening D. The red blood cell: structure and function. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 759-792.
5. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.

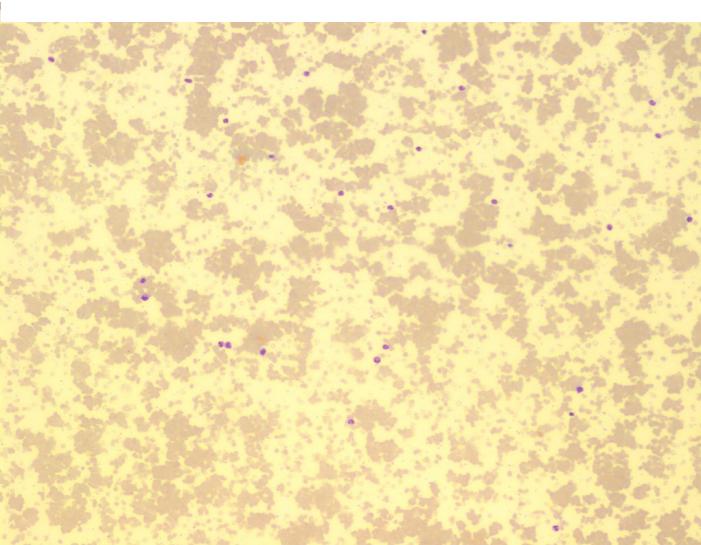
# 5

# Agglutination

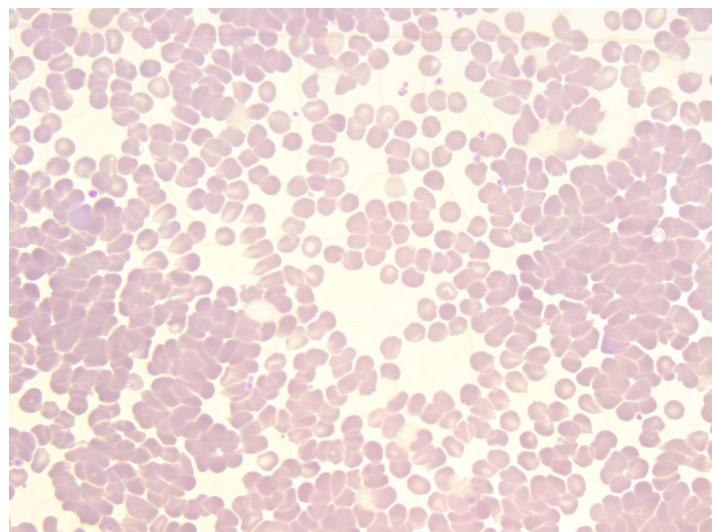
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



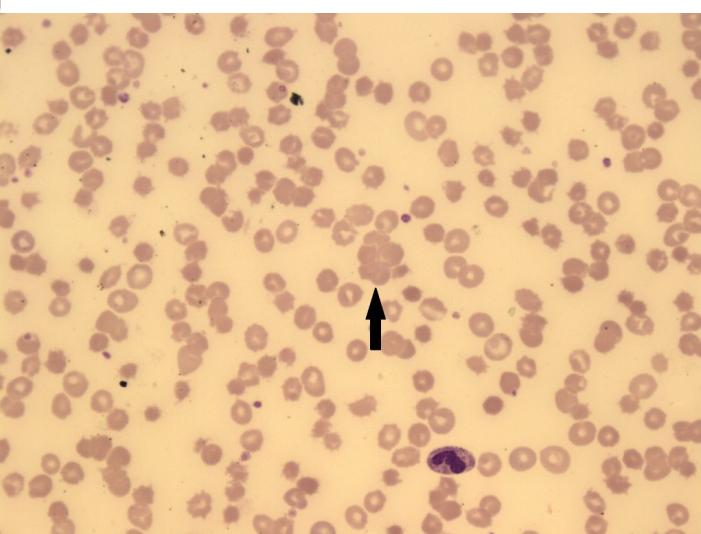
A peripheral blood smear demonstrating agglutination of red blood cells. 10x magnification.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3C824V90>



A peripheral blood smear demonstrating severe agglutination of red blood cells. 10x magnification.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R34J0BC72>



A peripheral blood smear demonstrating autoagglutination of red blood cells. 50x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3599ZH26>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing agglutination of red blood cells. The arrow points to a cluster of red blood cells. 50x magnification.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,

### **Cell Description:**

This alteration of RBC distribution presents as irregular and random grape-like clusters or clumps. Agglutination is differentiated from Rouleaux by the lack of linear chains or “coin staking”.<sup>1-4</sup>

The outlines of individual cells may not be evident.

### **Cell Formation:**

Agglutination is caused by the formation of antibody-antigen complexes and occurs at room temperatures. Auto-agglutination is produced as a result of a complex formed between the patient's own RBC antigens and antibodies, mediated by cold-reacting antibodies. Agglutination can be reversed when the blood sample is warmed to 37°C.<sup>1,2,5</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>2-4</sup>

Cold Hemagglutinin Disease

Paroxysmal Cold Hemoglobinuria

Cold Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia

**Note:** Formation is NOT reversed with the addition of saline.<sup>5</sup>

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## **References:**

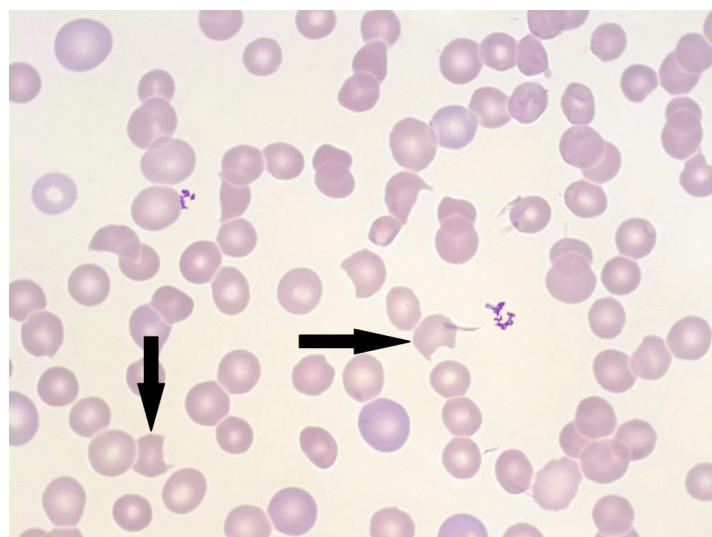
1. Hemolytic anemia: membrane defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 317-33.

2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
3. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>
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5. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.

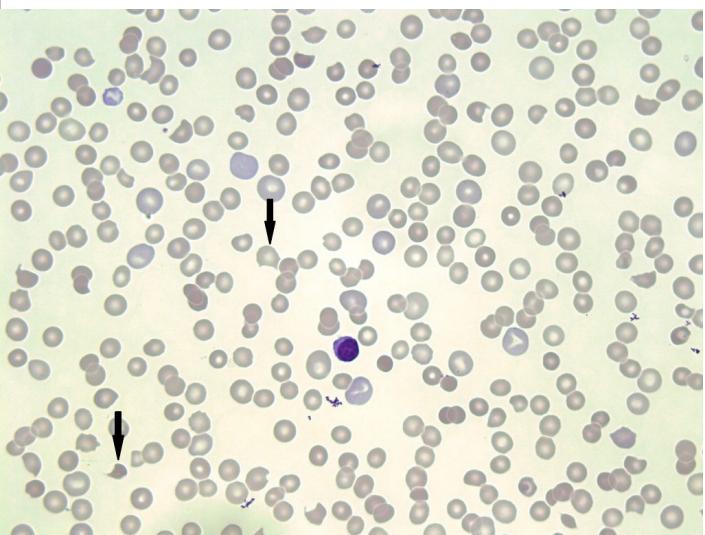
# 6

## Bite (Keratocyte) & Blister (Helmet) Cells

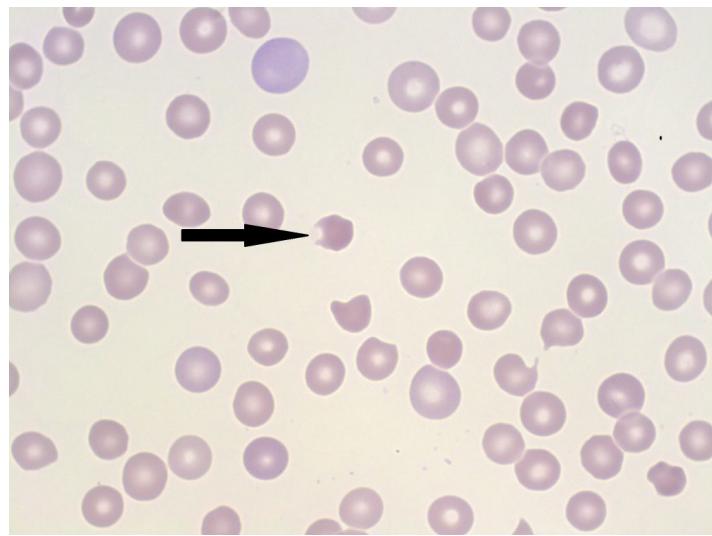
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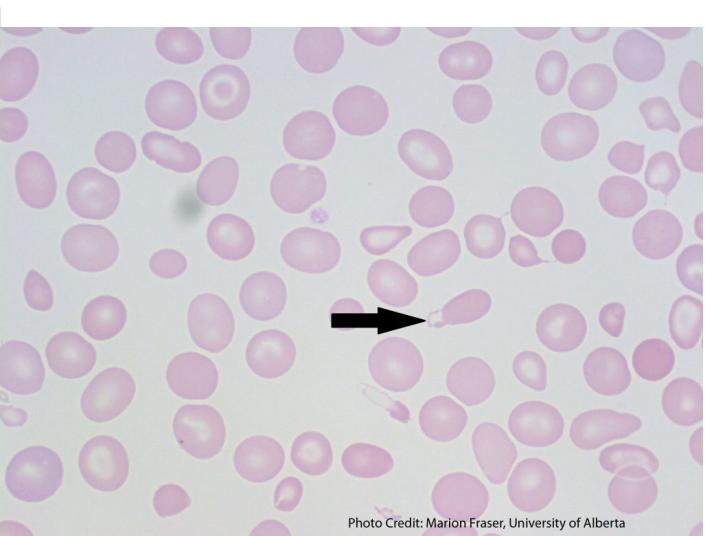
An image of a peripheral blood smear with bite cells present (indicated with arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3CC0V83F>



An image of a peripheral blood smear with bite cells present (indicated with arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3V698T3M>



A peripheral blood smear demonstrating a blister cell.



A peripheral blood smear with a blister cell present.

Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

cell (shown with an arrow). 100x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3H12VP5B>

(shown with an arrow). From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HQ3SD75>

## Cell Description:

Bite cells are red blood cells that contain a semi-circular indent on the edge of their membrane, giving the appearance of a bite being taken out of the cell.<sup>1</sup> Blister cells on the other hand, have cytoplasmic projections that fuse together, creating a vacuole on the edge of the membrane, giving the appearance of a blister.<sup>2</sup>

## Cell Formation:

Bite and Blister cells are often seen together, and may form through various mechanisms. Red blood cells originally containing inclusions are “pitted” or removed by macrophages in the spleen, resulting in bite or blister cells.<sup>3</sup> When the red blood cell is impaled by fibrin strands, the membrane can reform and produce a vacuole which results in a blister cell.<sup>2,3</sup>

Bite cells can also form when a blister cell ruptures.<sup>4</sup>

## Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>2,4,5</sup>

Microangiopathic Hemolytic Anemias (MAHAs)

Mechanical Hemolysis (i.e. mechanical heart-valves)

Heinz body hemolytic anemias (G6PD Deficiency, Thalassemia)

**Note:** Bite and blister cells are mainly seen in clinical states where Heinz bodies are formed.<sup>2</sup>

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## References:

1. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul

12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>

2. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
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# 7

# Dimorphic Population

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=237>

Images show peripheral blood smears containing a dimorphic population (hypochromic-microcytic, and normochromic-normocytic red blood cells). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3T14V447>

Image 2: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3V11W18D>

## Cell Description:

The peripheral blood smear shows that there are two distinct red blood cell populations present. The different red blood cell populations that may be seen are normocytic/normochromic, microcytic/hypochromic, macrocytic/normochromic.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Cell Formation:

The cause for the formation of a dimorphic red blood cell population varies depending on the clinical condition.

## Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1-2</sup>

Sideroblastic Anemia

Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)

Iron, Vitamin B12, Folate deficiency (and during the early treatment stage)

Post-transfusion

Erythropoietin Therapy

**Note:** RDW > 14.5%<sup>3</sup>

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## References:

1. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. *Int J Lab Hematol* [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>
2. Constantino BT. The red cell histogram and the dimorphic red cell population. *Lab Med* [Internet]. 2011 May 1 [cited 2018 Jul 23];42(5):300-8. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1309/LMF1UY85HEKBMIWO>
3. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in size and color of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 89-92.

# 8

# Echinocytes (Burr Cells)

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

### **Cell Description:**

The red blood cell has multiple evenly distributed projections that are of equal length that cover the entire surface of the cell.<sup>1</sup> Cells usually have an area of central pallor.<sup>2</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

Commonly form due to a “glass effect” during peripheral blood smear preparation with glass slides. Glass slides can release basic substances that can induce echinocyte formation.<sup>3</sup>

Another cause of echinocyte formation is due to storage conditions. Echinocytes can naturally form in whole blood that has been stored at 4°C after a few days (i.e. Blood to be transfused).<sup>3</sup>

The formation of echinocytes is a reversible process and can reform a natural discoid shape.<sup>3</sup>

Echinocytes are often considered artifact from the smear making process (drying or staining) and may not be reported, depending on individual laboratory protocol.

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1-3</sup>**

Artifact

Post-transfusion

Burns

Liver Disease

Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency

Uremia

Microangiopathic Hemolytic Anemias (MAHAs)

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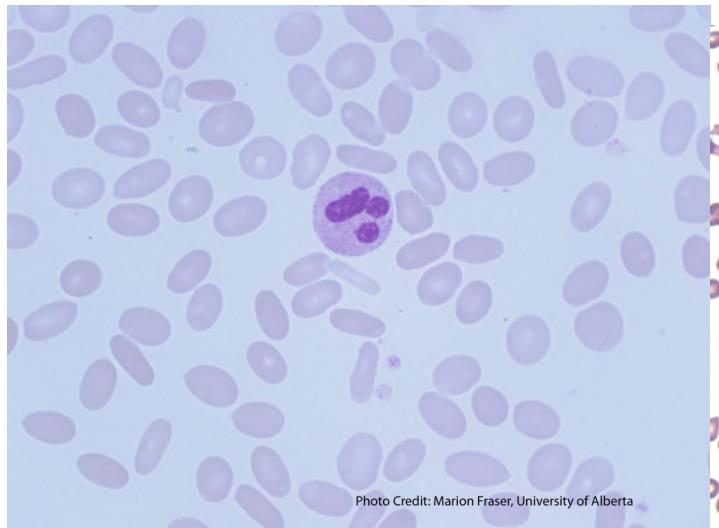
## References:

1. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jlh.12082>
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
3. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.

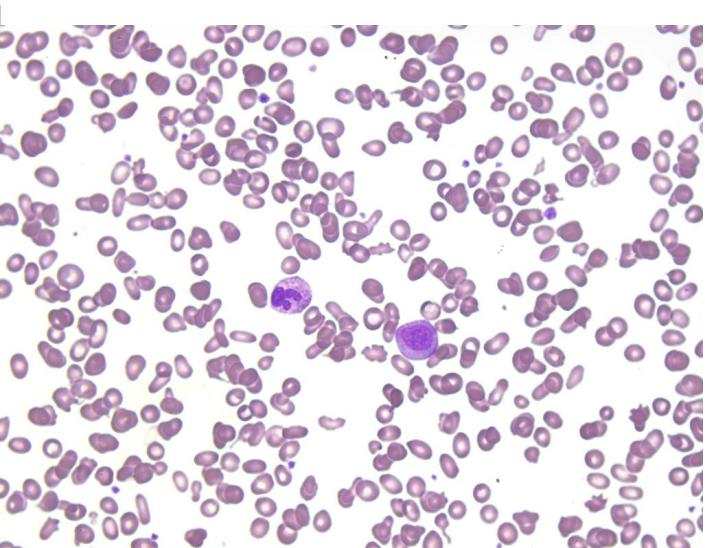
# 9

# Elliptocytes & Ovalocytes

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



A peripheral blood smear with numerous elliptocytes present. 100x magnification. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R35H7C887>



A peripheral blood smear showing elliptocytes along with various other poikilocytosis. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3H98ZV4C>

## Cell Description:

Elliptocytes: Red blood cells are cigar or pencil shaped with parallel sides and an area of pallor.<sup>1,2</sup>

Ovalocytes: Are red blood cells that are oval or egg shaped.<sup>1,2</sup>

Macro-ovalocytes: Ovalocytes that are larger than a normal red blood cells.<sup>3</sup>

**Southeast Asian Ovalocytes:** Ovalocytes show two transverse zones of pallor separated by a transverse zone of cytoplasm.<sup>4</sup>

### Cell Formation:

Elliptocytes and ovalocytes are formed only after the red blood cell has reached its normal and mature morphology. Elliptical features develop over time as the cell undergoes stress in the circulation.<sup>1,2</sup>

Formation occurs due to erythrocyte membrane protein defects resulting in an increase in mechanical weakness and membrane fragility.<sup>1,3,5</sup>

Hereditary elliptocytosis occurs due to defects in the horizontal protein linkages between the membrane and cytoskeleton. ( $\alpha$ -spectrin,  $\beta$ -spectrin, protein 4.1, glycophorin C).<sup>5,6</sup>

### Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1,4,7</sup>

---

#### **Elliptocytes:**

Hereditary elliptocytosis  
Thalassemia  
Iron deficiency Anemia

---

#### **Ovalocytes:**

Hereditary ovalocytosis (Southeast Asian Ovalocytosis)  
Megaloblastic Anemia (Macro-ovalocytes)

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## References:

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
2. Manchanda N. Anemias: red blood morphology and approach to diagnosis. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 284-96.
3. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis

Company; 2009. p. 93-116.

4. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. *Int J Lab Hematol* [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>
5. Gallagher PG. Abnormalities of the erythrocyte membrane. *Pediatr Clin North Am* [Internet]. 2013 Dec 15 [cited 2018 Jun 26];60(6):1349-62. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4155395/>
6. Da Costa L, Galimand J, Fenneteau O, Mohandas N. Hereditary spherocytosis, elliptocytosis, and other red cell membrane disorders. *Blood Rev* [Internet]. 2013[cited 2018 Jul 24];27(4):167-78. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0268960X13000192>
7. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.

# 10

## Pyknocytes

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=258>*

*Images of peripheral blood smears with pyknocytes present. Pyknocytes are indicated by the arrows.  
100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R33B5WQ09>*

*Image 2: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3VX06J4H>*

*Image 3: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3KS6JM01>*

### **Cell Description:**

Pyknocytes appear as small, dark, pyknotic RBCs that lack central pallor and have an irregular, non-spherical shape.

### **Cell Formation:**

Pyknocytes are rare, but may form as a result of red blood cell dehydration or oxidative damage.

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States: (6 Mary Louise ch 6 pg 103)**

Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency

Glucose-6-phosphate (G6PD) Deficiency

Acute and severe hemolytic anemias

Infantile pyknocytosis

## **References:**

1. Turgeon ML. Normal erythrocyte lifecycle and physiology. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 103.

# 11

# Rouleaux

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=260>

*Images of peripheral blood smears with rouleaux present. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3445HT5R>*

*Image 2: 10x magnification. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HQ3SD56>*

*Image 3: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HM5313R>*

## **Cell Description:**

Red blood cells are arranged into rows or linear chains, appearing on top of one another in a “coin stacking” fashion. The outlines of the individual cells are usually seen.<sup>1,2</sup>

## **Cell Formation:**

Can form naturally after blood is collected and allowed to sit for a long period of time.<sup>1</sup>

Similar morphology can be seen in the thick areas of a blood smear.<sup>1</sup> Pathological rouleaux is only reported when seen in the thin areas of a peripheral blood smear where a differential would usually be performed.<sup>3</sup>

In pathological states, the increase of plasma proteins (e.g. fibrinogen, globulins) will coat the red blood cells and cause them to become “sticky” and result in rouleaux formation.<sup>1,4</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>2,5</sup>**

\*Associated with any condition that results in the increase of plasma proteins

Acute and chronic inflammatory disorders

Plasma Cell Myeloma (Multiple Myeloma)

Polyclonal or monoclonal hyperglobulinemia

---

**Note:** Unlike with agglutination, the formation of rouleaux can be reversed with the addition of saline.<sup>2</sup>

### **References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematlogy atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
3. Turgeon ML. Erythrocyte morphology and inclusions. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 99-111.
4. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
5. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jlh.12082>

# 12

## Schistocytes

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=272>*

*Images show peripheral blood smears with schistocytes present (indicated by the arrow). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34Q7R51T>*

*Image 2: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3N29PN8H>*

*Image 3: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R31R6NG3M>*

### **Cell Description:**

Fragmented red blood cells with varying shapes and sizes. Cells often appear small, with multiple pointed and angular ends and lack an area of central pallor.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

Formed in circulation when a red blood cell is damaged by mechanical means (e.g. damaged by fibrin strands or mechanical heart valves). The presence of schistocytes suggests an intravascular hemolytic process is occurring<sup>2,3</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1,2,4,5</sup>

Microangiopathic Hemolytic Anemia (MAHAs)

Macroangiopathic Hemolytic Anemias

Renal graft rejection

Severe burns

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## References:

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
2. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>
3. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
4. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
5. Manchanda N. Anemias: red blood morphology and approach to diagnosis. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 284-96.

# 13

## Sickle Cells (Drepanocytes)

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=278>*

*A peripheral blood smear demonstrating sickle cells (indicated by arrows). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3TQ5RV8M>*

*Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3X05XT8X>*

### **Cell Description:**

Red blood cells that lack an area of central pallor, are thin, and appear curved or S-shaped (cells resemble a sickle or crescent). The ends of the cell are pointed.<sup>1</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

A genetic mutation in the  $\beta$  globin chain results in the production of abnormal hemoglobin S. The mutation results in an amino acid substitution in the 6th position from glutamine to valine. Red blood cells have normal morphology under normal conditions but under hypoxic conditions (decreased oxygen tension), hemoglobin S polymerizes and causes the red blood cell to assume the characteristic sickle shape.<sup>2</sup> Sickle cell formation causes the red blood cell to become rigid and inflexible.<sup>3</sup>

Factors that contribute to hemoglobin S polymerization and RBC sickling include:

- Low oxygen saturation
- Decreased pH
- Increased 2,3-BPG

- Dehydration

These factors affect either the oxygenation or concentration of hemoglobin S inside the red blood cell, leading to polymerization and sickling.

**Note:** Formation of sickle cells can be reversible when hypoxic conditions are corrected however not all sickle cells have the ability to revert back to a normal morphology.<sup>2,3</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1</sup>**

Sickle Cell Disease (Homozygous Hemoglobin S disease)

Hemoglobin SC Disease

**Note:** Sickled cells not usually seen in heterozygous hemoglobin S (Hemoglobin AS or Sickle Cell Trait).<sup>1</sup>

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## **References:**

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
2. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
3. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.

# 14

# Spherocytes

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=283>*

*Images show peripheral blood smears with numerous spherocytes present (examples are indicated by arrows). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R39883320>*

*Image 2: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3XG9FS24>*

### **Cell Description:**

Round red blood cells that lack an area of central pallor. Cells often appear darker and smaller than a normocytic red blood cell.<sup>1</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

Formation of spherocytes in circulation occurs due to a partial loss of the red blood cell membrane. This can occur when RBCs are not fully phagocytosed by macrophages during extravascular hemolysis.<sup>2</sup> Cellular content remains the same and this leads to a decrease in the surface to volume ratio and spherocyte formation.<sup>3</sup>

**Hereditary Spherocytosis:** the formation of spherocytes occurs due to the defects in the vertical protein linkages between the membrane and cytoskeleton, resulting in a loss of unsupported RBC membrane and spherocyte formation.<sup>4</sup>

**Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1,5-7</sup>

Hereditary Spherocytosis

Warm Auto-Immune Hemolytic Anemia (WAIHA)

Drug-Induced Immune Hemolytic Anemia

Allo-Immune-mediated hemolysis (delayed hemolytic transfusion reactions, Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn)

Glucose-6-Phosphate (G6PD) Deficiency

Transfused cells (storage lesion)

Severe burns

**Note:** Spherocytes have an increased MCHC (>360 g/L).<sup>5</sup>

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## References:

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
2. Doig K. Introduction to increased destruction of erythrocytes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 348-66.
3. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>
4. Da Costa L, Galimand J, Fenneteau O, Mohandas N. Hereditary spherocytosis, elliptocytosis, and other red cell membrane disorders. *Blood Rev* [Internet]. 2013[cited 2018 Jul 24];27(4):167-78. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0268960X13000192>
5. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.

6. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. *Int J Lab Hematol* [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jlh.12082>
7. Turgeon ML. Erythrocyte morphology and inclusions. In: *Clinical hematology: theory and procedures*. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 99-111.

# 15

## Stomatocytes

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

### **Cell Description:**

Red blood cells that appear to have an area of central pallor that is slit-like (stoma) instead of circular.<sup>1</sup> Cells are normal in size but lack its normal biconcavity.<sup>2</sup> By using electron microscopy, cells instead appear “cup” or “bowl” shaped.<sup>3</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

Cell formation is due to a membrane defects (acquired or inherited) that results alterations in cell volume. Both an increase (hydrocytosis) and a decrease (xerocytosis) in cell volume can cause the production of stomatocytes.<sup>2</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1,2,4,5</sup>

Hereditary Stomatocytosis

Artifact

Alcoholism

Liver disease

Rh Null Disease

Drugs (effects are often reversible)

## References:

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
3. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>
4. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
5. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>

# 16

## Target Cells (Codocytes)

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*

<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=292>

*Images show peripheral blood smears with numerous target cells present (examples are indicated by arrows). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 100x oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3R49GR23>

*Image 2: 40x magnification.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3NG4H71X>

*Image 3. 60x oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3R78644B>

### **Cell Description:**

Target cells adopt a “bullseye” morphology where hemoglobin is concentrated in the center and on the periphery with a colourless zone in between the two areas. Other target cells may also look folded or bell shaped.<sup>1-3</sup>

**Note:** The target cell membrane is thinner than normal cells.<sup>1,4</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

Liver Disease: membrane cholesterol concentration is reduced, decreasing the tensile strength of the membrane, resulting in target cell formation.<sup>2,3,5</sup>

Artifact: Target cell formation occurs when blood smears are made when humidity is high.<sup>1</sup>

Hemoglobinopathies: There is a uneven distribution of hemoglobin within the cell, and an increased surface area to volume ratio.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** Target cells have an increased surface area to volume ratio and decreased osmotic fragility.<sup>1,3</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1,2,5</sup>**

Hemoglobinopathies (Hemoglobin C Disease, Sickle cell Disease, Thalassemia, etc.)

Iron deficiency anemia

Obstructive Liver disease

Splenectomy

Artifact

---

## **References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematoloy. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematoloy atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
3. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematoloy and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
4. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>
5. Turgeon ML. Erythrocyte morphology and inclusions. In: Clinical hematoloy: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 99-111.

# 17

## Tear Cells (Dacrocytes, Teardrops)

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=297>

Images show peripheral blood smears with numerous tear cells (examples indicated by arrows). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R37S7J768>

Image 2: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3D21S07J>

Image 3: <https://doi.org/10.7939/R38P5VR5R>

### **Cell Description:**

Red blood cells that are teardrop or pear shaped with one blunt projection.<sup>1</sup> The size of these cells are variable.<sup>2</sup>

### **Cell Formation:**

Red blood cells with inclusions: Teardrop cells form from these cells when the cells attempt to pass through the microcirculation resulting in the pinching the cell as the part containing the inclusion is left behind.<sup>2</sup>

Myelophthisis: displacement of normal hematopoietic tissue in the bone marrow by abnormal cells (malignancies) or fibrosis, leading to bone marrow crowding and pinching of RBCs as they are pushed out of the bone marrow.

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1-3</sup>**

Primary myelofibrosis

Thalassemia

Megaloblastic Anemia

Sideroblastic Anemia

Myelophthisic Anemia

Drug-induced Heinz body formation

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## **References:**

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106, 289.
2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
3. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>

III

# RED BLOOD CELLS: ABNORMAL RBC INCLUSIONS

# 18

# Basophilic Stippling

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=302>

Images show peripheral blood smears with basophilic stippling in the red blood cells (indicated by arrows). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3G15TS2N>

Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3RJ4993X>

Image 3: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3J960R3H>

## **Appearance:**

Multiple dark blue-purple granules that are distributed throughout the red blood cell. Granules can appear coarse, fine, round, and/or irregularly shaped, and are present in numerous numbers.<sup>1,2</sup> Typically, only coarse basophilic stippling is reported.

## **Inclusion composition:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Aggregates of ribonucleic Acid (RNA)

## **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Lead toxicity

Thalassemia

Abnormal heme synthesis

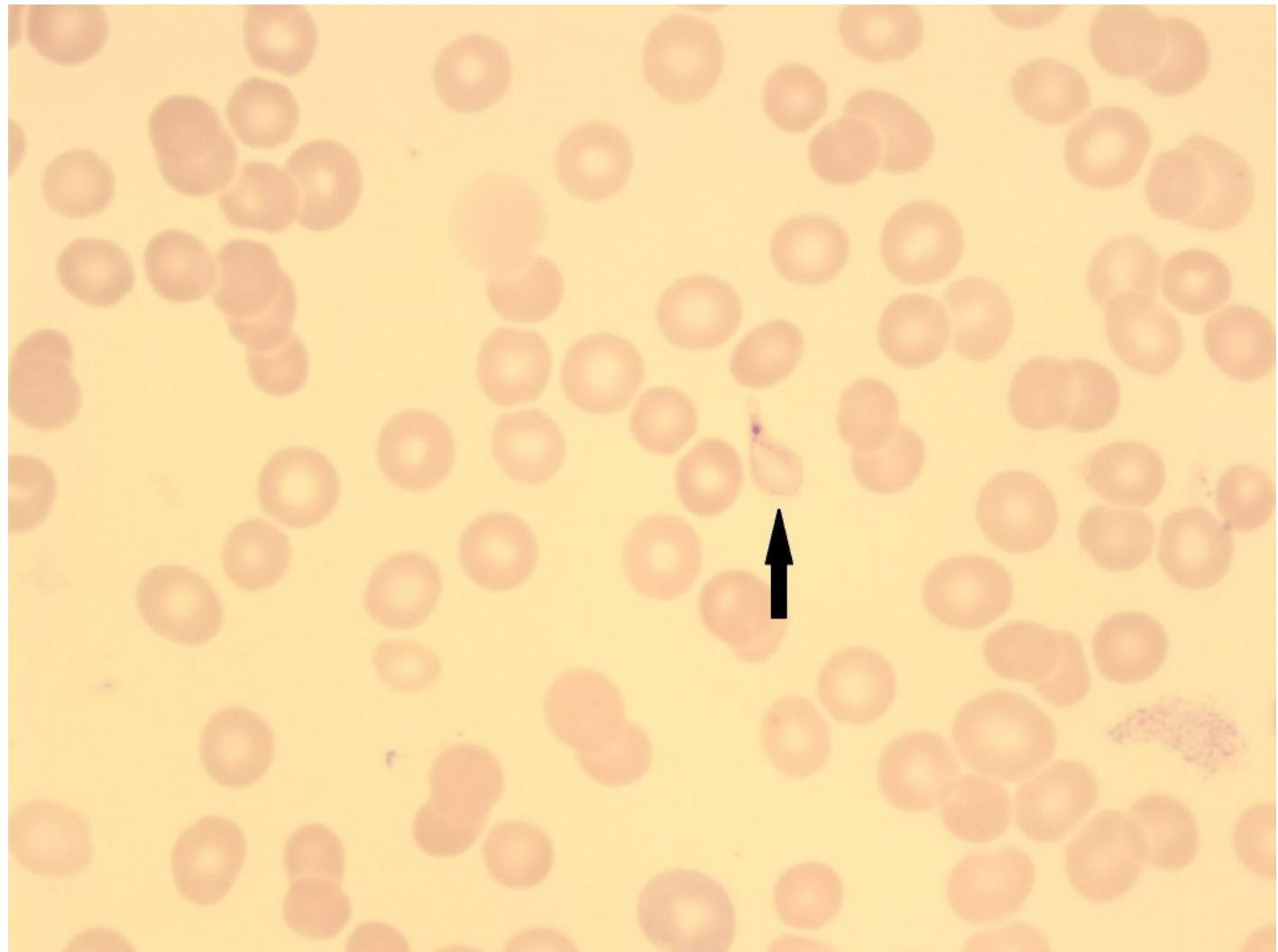
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## References:

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
3. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>

# Cabot Rings

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a cabot ring. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3B854027>

## Appearance:

Red-purple inclusions that appear as a loop, ring, or figure-eight shape and span the diameter of the red blood cell. 1-2 cabot rings may be seen in a single cell.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** Finding is rare, and not to be confused with malaria.

### **Inclusion composition:<sup>1</sup>**

Remnant microtubules of mitotic spindle

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1-3</sup>**

Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS; Dyserythropoiesis)

Megaloblastic Anemia

Lead poisoning

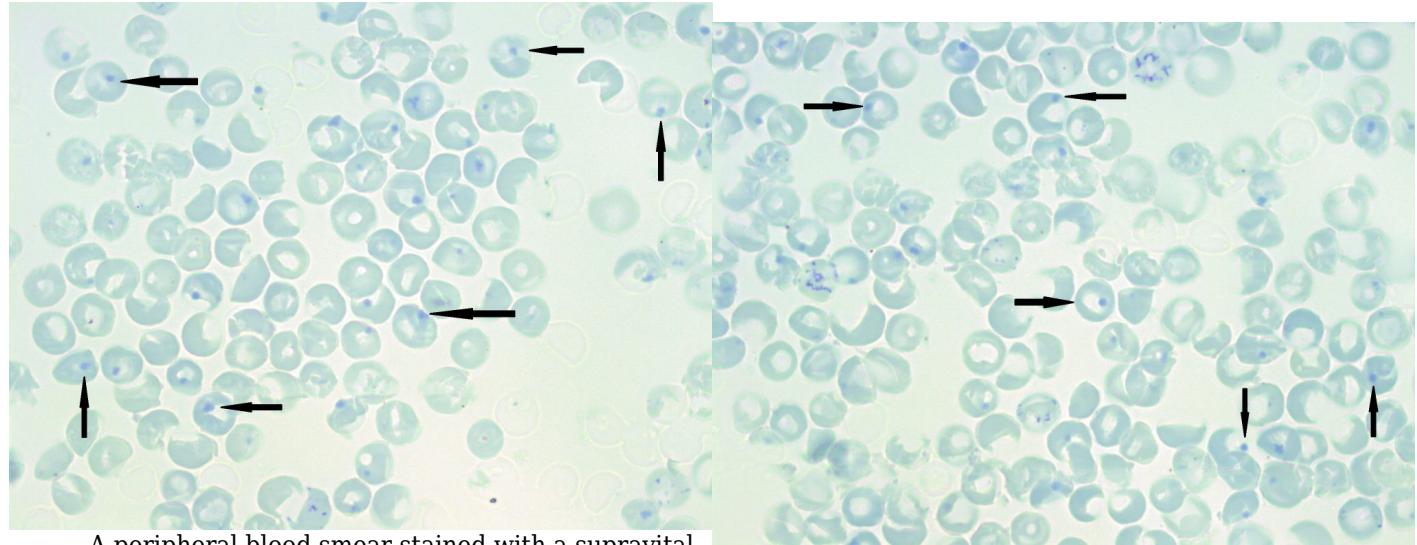
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## **References:**

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Inclusions in erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 107-14.
2. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
3. Turgeon ML. Erythrocyte morphology and inclusions. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 99-111.

# Heinz Bodies

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



A peripheral blood smear stained with a supravital stain demonstrating numerous heinz bodies (indicated by arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R35718396>

A supravital stained peripheral blood smear showing numerous heinz bodies (indicated by arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3901ZX4N>

## Appearance:

Inclusions are not visible on Wright or Romanowsky-stained blood smears. Inclusions can only be visualized with supravital stains. After staining, Heinz body inclusions appear dark blue-purple and are located at the periphery of the red blood cell at the membrane. The inclusions are round and look as if they are being ejected out of the cell.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Note:** Heinz bodies are usually not seen, as they are normally removed by splenic macrophages.<sup>3</sup> Their presence indicates an increase in hemoglobin denaturation and precipitation, seen in numerous conditions that result in hemoglobin instability, oxidative damage, or excess globin chains.

**Inclusion composition:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Denatured or precipitated hemoglobin

**Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency

Hemoglobinopathies (may result in the formation of unstable hemoglobins)

Thalassemia

Post-splenectomy

Oxidizing drugs

**Note:** Appear in conditions where unstable hemoglobin can form.<sup>2</sup>

---

## References:

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematolgy. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Inclusions in erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematolgy atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 107-14.
3. Bain BJ. Important supplementary tests. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 277-94. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>

# 21

# Hemoglobin H (Hb H)

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An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=317>

Images show supravital stained peripheral blood smears with numerous hemoglobin H inclusions (examples indicated by arrows). Note the golf ball-like appearance of the red blood cells. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3GM8243H>*

*Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R33F4M37Z>*

## **Appearance:**

Hemoglobin H inclusions can only be visualized with supravital stains and not Wright or Romanowsky stains. With supravital stains, such as Brillian Cresyl Blue, the red blood cells are covered with numerous small, dark blue dots that give the cells a “golf ball” or “raspberry” appearance.<sup>1,2</sup>

## **Inclusion composition:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Hemoglobin H is made up of 4  $\gamma$  globin chains in a tetramer formation. Hemoglobin H is unstable and will precipitate over time in the RBC, leading to Heinz Body formation. Precipitation can be induced using supravital stains, and can be used to visualize Hemoglobin H inclusions.

## **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Hemoglobin H Disease

## **References:**

1. Randolph TR. Thalassemia. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 251-276.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Inclusions in erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 107-14.

# 22

## Hemoglobin C Crystals

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### **Appearance:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Dark red hexagonal crystals with blunt ends. The crystal is prominent within the red blood cell, or may be found extra-cellularly. Usually only one crystal is present per single cell. Hemoglobin C crystals are rarely found, as the spleen will remove them from circulation, though patients who have undergone a splenectomy have many numerous hemoglobin C crystals present on their peripheral blood smear.

### **Inclusion composition:**<sup>2</sup>

Crystallized Hemoglobin C.

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**<sup>1</sup>

Homozygous Hemoglobin C Disease

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## **References:**

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.
2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.

# 23 Hemoglobin SC Crystals

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## **Appearance:**

Crystals appear as a combination of sickle cells and hemoglobin C crystals. They are dark red inclusions with blunt ended projections.<sup>1</sup> The crystals are longer than Hemoglobin C crystals, but shorter and thicker than Hemoglobin S.

## **Inclusion composition:<sup>1</sup>**

Hemoglobin S and hemoglobin C

## **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1</sup>**

Hemoglobin SC Disease (compound heterozygosity)

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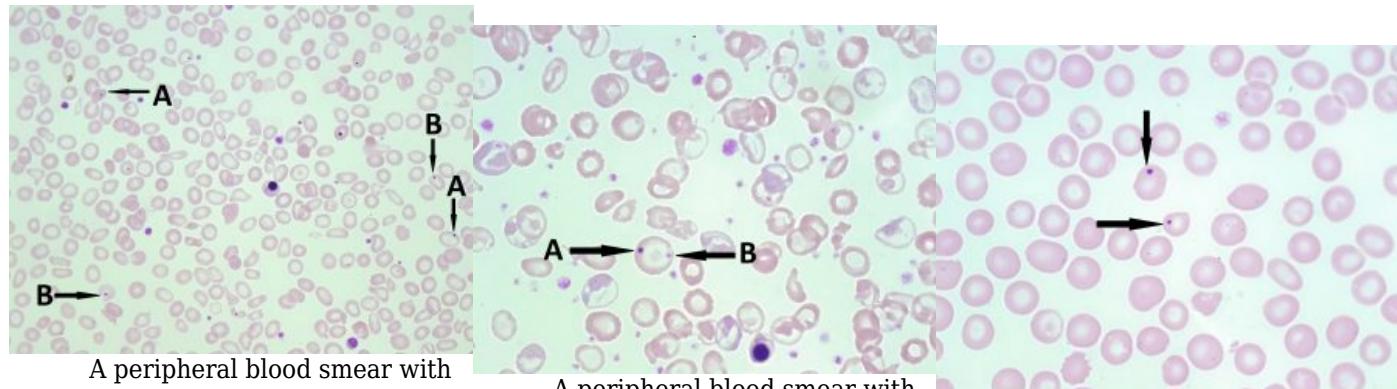
## **References:**

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Variations in shape and distribution of erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 93-106.

# 24

## Howell-Jolly Bodies

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A peripheral blood smear with Howell-Jolly bodies. A. shows Howell-Jolly bodies. B. shows platelets on top of a red blood cell. Note the clear space surrounding the platelet. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R30R9MK3C>

A peripheral blood smear with a Howell-Jolly body and a platelet on the same red blood cell. A. shows Howell-Jolly body. B. shows platelets on top of a red blood cell. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3B853Z9R>

A peripheral blood smear with Howell-Jolly bodies (indicated with arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3028PV21>

### Appearance:

Under Wright/Romanowsky stains, Howell-Jolly Bodies appear as dark blue/purple round inclusions located at the periphery of the RBC. They usually present as a single inclusion inside the cell. Howell-Jolly Bodies are also visible under supravital stains.<sup>1-4</sup>

### Inclusion composition:<sup>2,3</sup>

Nuclear fragments/remnants made up of DNA<sup>1-4</sup>

### **Associated Disease/Clinical States:**

Thalassemia

Megaloblastic Anemia

Myelodysplastic Syndrome

Post-splenectomy

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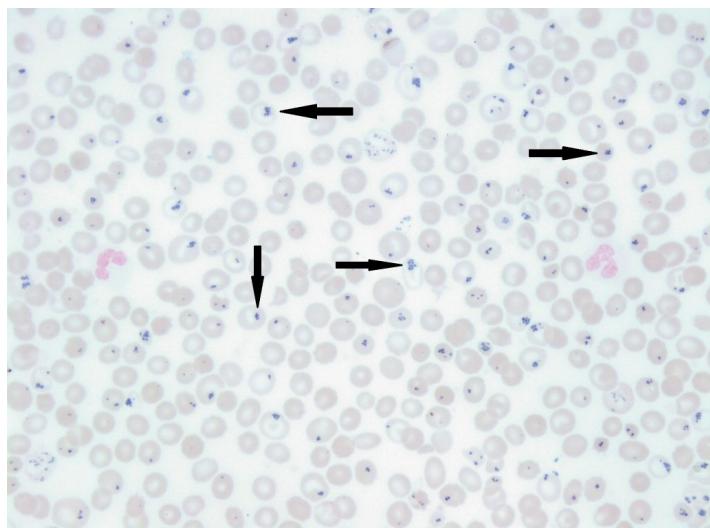
## **References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
3. Fritsma GA. Bone marrow examination. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 253-68.
4. Ford J. Red blood cell morphology. Int J Lab Hematol [Internet]. 2013 Mar 9 [cited 2018 Jul 12];35(3):351-7. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijlh.12082>

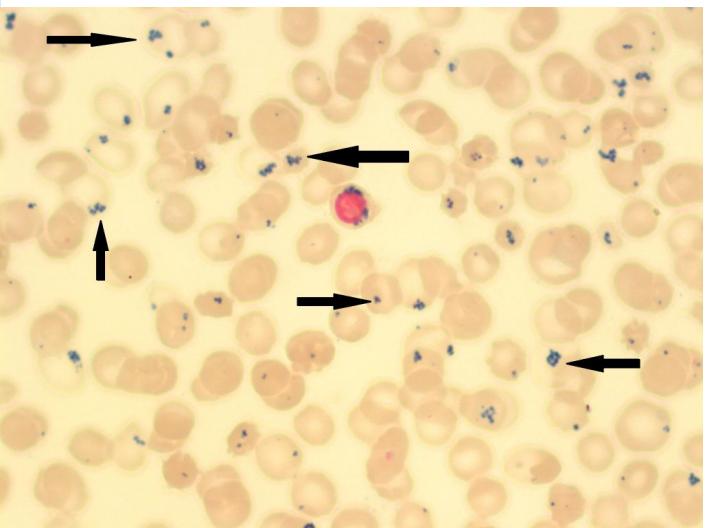
25

# Pappenheimer Bodies (Siderotic Granules)

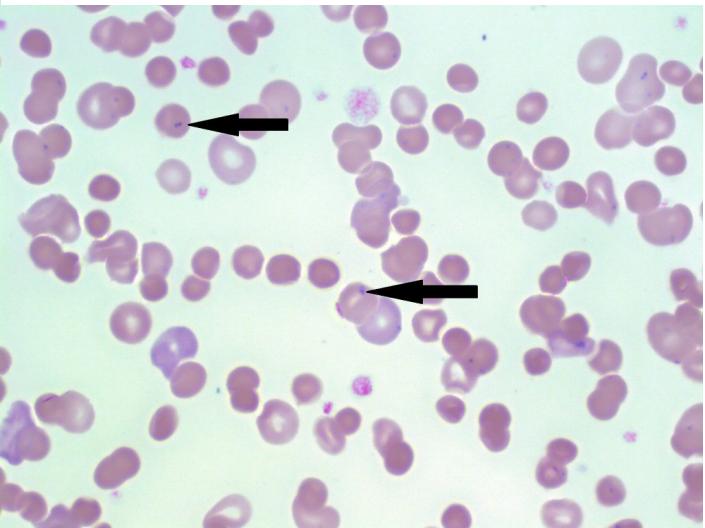
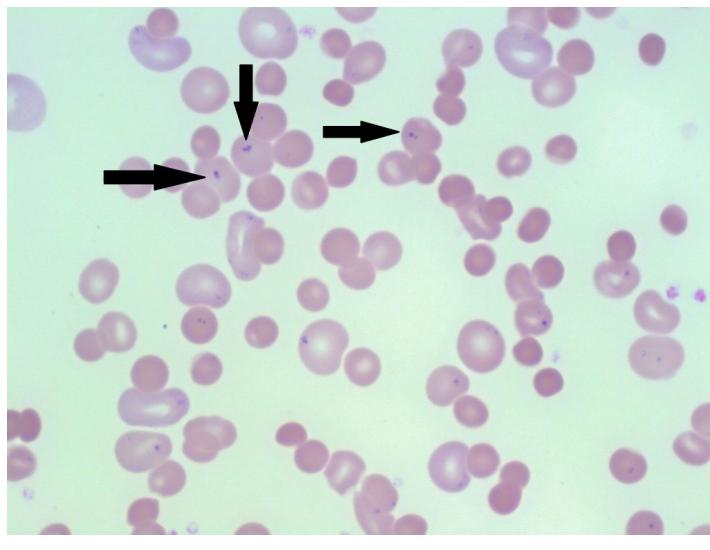
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An iron stained peripheral blood smear with pappenheimer bodies present (indicated with arrows). Perls Prussian Blue. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3FN1173T>



An iron stained peripheral blood smear with pappenheimer bodies present (indicated with arrows). Perls Prussian Blue. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R36689100>



A peripheral blood smear with pappenheimer bodies present (indicated with arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R35X25V0R>

A peripheral blood smear with pappenheimer bodies present (indicated with arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3251G16Q>

## **Appearance:**

Inclusions are visible under both Wright/Romanowsky stains and Perls Prussian Blue stain. Pappenheimer inclusions appear as clusters of fine and irregular granules located at the periphery of the red blood cell.<sup>1-3</sup>

## **Inclusion composition:<sup>3</sup>**

Iron

## **Associated Disease/Clinical States:<sup>1,2</sup>**

Splenectomy

Sideroblastic Anemia

Thalassemia

Sickle Cell Disease

Hemachromatosis

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## **References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.
2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.

3. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Inclusions in erythrocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 107-14.

# 26

# Bacteria & Fungi

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=343>

Images show peripheral blood smears with bacteria present. Neutrophils show toxic changes (toxic vacuolation and granulation are most prominent) and contain ingested bacteria. Bacteria is also present extracellularly. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3NV99S2S>

Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3J38KZ9T>

Image 3: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R38K75C0V>

## Appearance:

The morphology of a microorganism depends on the type of microorganism (fungi or bacteria) present in the blood. Can be seen extracellularly or intracellularly when patient is septic.<sup>1</sup>

## Organisms:<sup>1</sup>

### Fungi:

Yeast  
*Histoplasma capsulatum*  
*Cryptococcus neoformans*

### Bacteria:

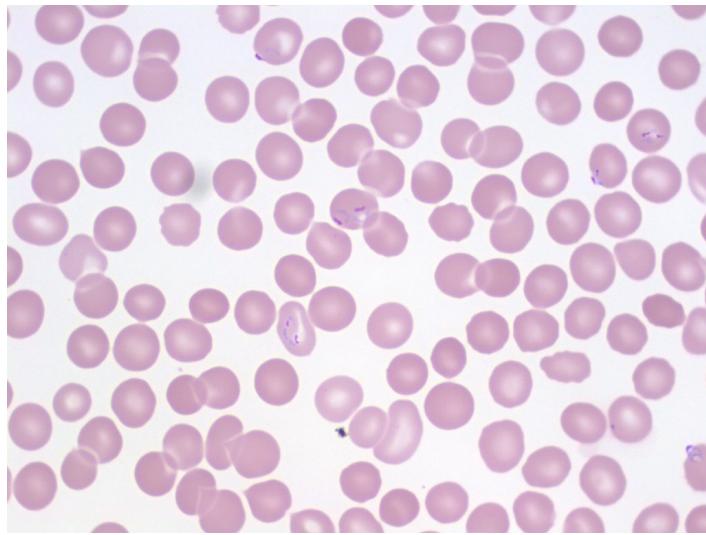
*Clostridium perfringens*  
*Bartonella bacilliformis*  
Cocci  
Other Bacilli/Rods

**References:**

1. Smith LA. Hemolytic anemia: nonimmune defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 372-87.

# Malaria

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An image from a peripheral blood smear showing multiple malarial rings (*Plasmodium falciparum*) inside red blood cells. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3891263S>

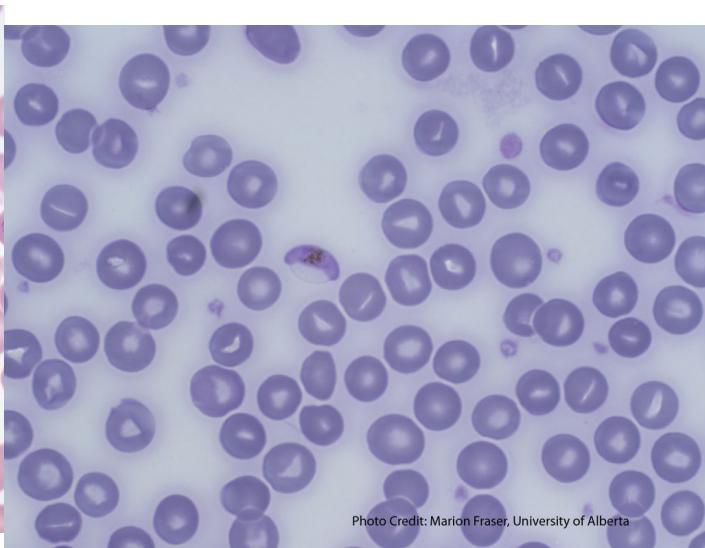
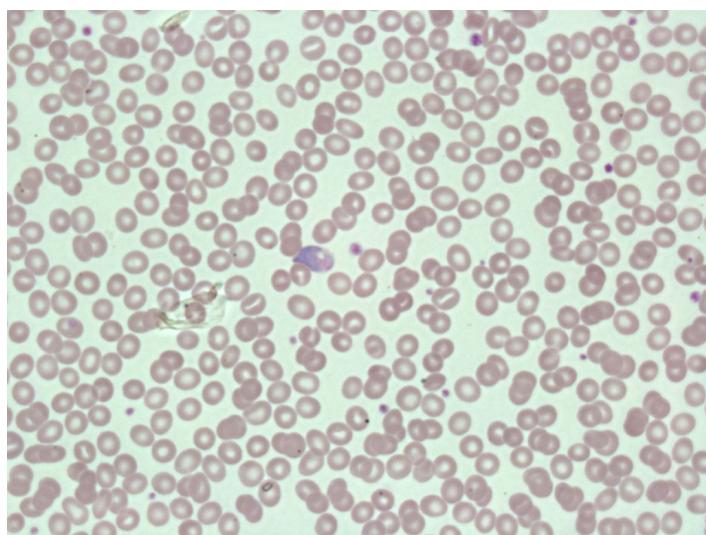
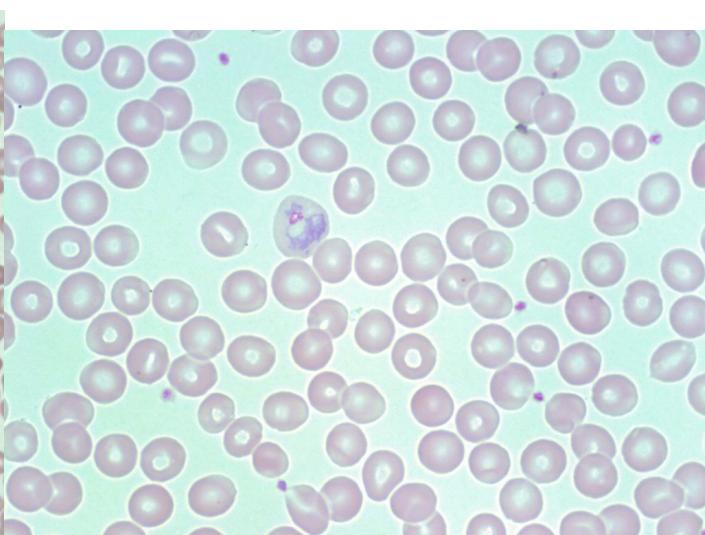


Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

An image of a peripheral blood smear showing a crescent-shaped gametocyte (characteristic of *Plasmodium falciparum*). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30R9MK4V>



An image of a peripheral blood smear showing malaria at the gametocyte stage in the center. 60x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of



An image of a peripheral blood smear showing a malarial parasite at the trophozoite stage in a red blood cell. 100x oil immersion. From MLS

## **Appearance:**

The morphology of malarial parasites seen in the red blood cell varies depending on the stage of maturation and species present. Malaria can appear as rings, trophozoites, schizonts, and gametocytes. Ring forms appear as a pale blue ring with a pink/purple chromatin dot, and more than one may be present in a single red blood cell. Malarial parasites are most often seen intracellular to the red blood cell with various forms.<sup>1</sup>

Parasites can be visualized using the Giemsa stain during the screening of thin and thick smears.<sup>1</sup>

**Note 1:** Banana shaped gametocytes seen are characteristically in *Plasmodium falciparum* infections.

**Note 2:** Malarial rings may be confused with platelets when they appear on top of a red blood cell. Platelets may be differentiated by showing a slight clearing or halo around the platelet.<sup>2</sup>

## **Organisms:<sup>1</sup>**

The malarial parasite is spread to humans by the female *Anopheles sp.* mosquito.

## **Malaria parasites:<sup>1,2</sup>**

*Plasmodium falciparum*

*Plasmodium vivax*

*Plasmodium ovale*

*Plasmodium malariae*

*Plasmodium knowlesi*

## **References:**

1. Keohane EM. Extrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction – nonimmune causes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 394-410.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Microorganisms. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 195-202.

# Babesia

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## **Appearance:**

Like malaria, Babesia species can be seen both intracellularly and extracellularly and visualized with the Giemsa stain. Babesia parasites appear as ring forms in the red blood cell with variable morphology.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** Tetrad of rings may appear as a “maltese cross”.<sup>1</sup>

## **Organisms:**

The *Babesia microti* parasite is carried by the *Ixodes scapularis* tick.<sup>1</sup> Humans are incidental dead-end hosts of Babesia.

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## **References:**

1. Keohane EM. Extrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction - nonimmune causes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 394-410.

# 29

# Trypanosomes

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=359>

*Images of peripheral blood smears showing C shaped trypanosomes (center). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3QZ22Z5K>*

*Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3M61C52N>*

## **Appearance:**

Hemoflagellates that are often visualized using Giemsa stain during screening of thin and thick smears, though they are visible by regular Romanowsky staining procedures.<sup>1</sup>

Trypomastigotes appear C or U shaped in the peripheral blood, usually seen extracellular to the red blood cells.<sup>2</sup>

## **Organisms:**

The Reduviid bug (“kissing bug”) carries *Trypanosoma cruzi* in its gut where it matures. During a blood meal, the Reduviid bug releases *T.cruzi* via feces onto the feeding sites or mucous membranes where it can cause infection in the bloodstream.<sup>2</sup>

*Trypanosoma cruzi* is the causative agent of Chagas Disease.<sup>2</sup>

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## References:

1. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Microorganisms. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 195-202.
2. Ahmad N, Drew WL, Lagunoff M, Pottinger P, Reller LB, Sterling CR. Sarcomastigophora-the amebas. In: Ryan KJ, Ray CG, editors. Sherris medical microbiology. 6th ed. McGraw-Hill Education; 2014. p. 823-44.

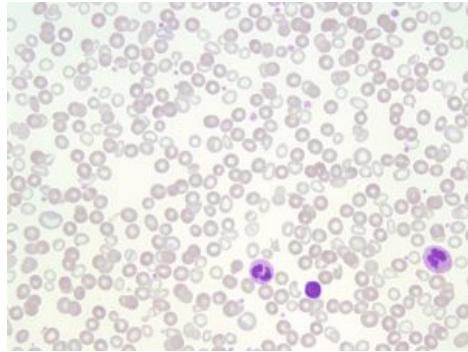
IV

# RED BLOOD CELLS: HYPOCHROMIC, MICROCYTIC ANEMIAS

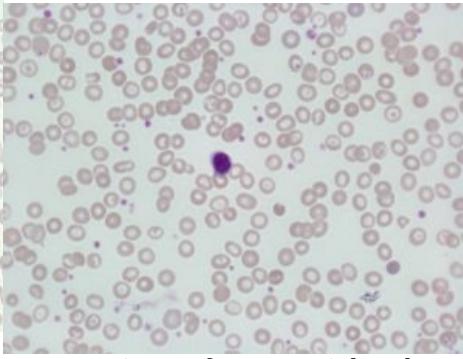
# 30

## Iron Deficiency Anemia (IDA)

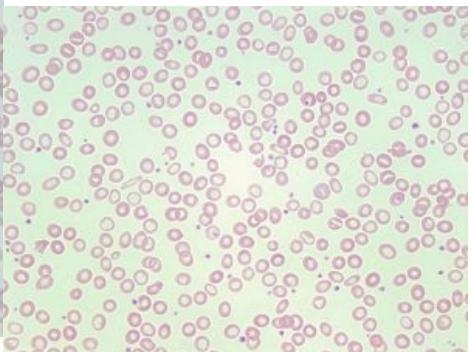
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An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating hypochromic and microcytic red blood cells. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3P84499C>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing hypochromic, microcytic red blood cells with occasional targets which can be seen in IDA. 60x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3988333G>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing hypochromic, microcytic red blood cells. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3KS6JK8F>

### Cause(s):<sup>1,2</sup>

Chronic Blood Loss (heavy menstruation, intermittent GI bleeding, etc.)

Increased Need (periods of rapid growth, pregnancy)

Inadequate intake (diet)

Impaired absorption (malabsorption)

**Notes:** When there is not enough iron to meet the requirements of the body, iron stores begin to deplete, and IDA occurs. Development of IDA occurs over a period of time.<sup>1,4</sup>

## IDA development is said to occur in three stages:<sup>3</sup>

Stage 1 <b>(Storage Iron Depletion):</b>	Stage 2 <b>(Transport Iron Depletion):</b>	Stage 3 <b>(Functional Iron Depletion- IDA):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Normal RBC maturation</li> <li>- Decline in storage iron (decreased ferritin, decreased iron stores in the bone marrow)</li> <li>- No other evidence of anemia development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decreased serum iron and ferritin</li> <li>- Transferrin and TIBC levels increase</li> <li>- Absent iron stores in the bone marrow</li> <li>- Evidence of anemia is not as apparent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anemia is evident</li> <li>- PBS shows microcytic, hypochromic RBCs</li> <li>- RBC development is affected</li> <li>- Same iron study results as stage 2</li> <li>- Hb is decreased</li> <li>- Hepcidin is decreased</li> <li>- Erythropoietin is increased</li> </ul>

## Laboratory Features of Iron Deficiency Anemia (At Stage 3):<sup>1-4</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> RBC Count: Decreased PLT: Variable (increased in chronic bleeding) Hb: Decreased Hct: Decreased MCV, MCH, MCHC: Decreased RDW: Increased	<b>PBS:</b> Microcytic, hypochromic RBCs Target cells Elliptocytes Teardrop cells Normal WBC morphology	<b>BM:</b> M:E Ratio: Decreased Erythroid hyperplasia Iron Stores: Absent or severely decreased (not sustainable)
<b>Iron Studies:</b> Serum Iron: Decreased Ferritin: Decreased Transferrin: Increased Transferrin Saturation: Decreased TIBC: Increased	<b>Other Tests:</b> Prussian Blue stain of the BM shows absent or decreased iron Reticulocyte count decreased	

## References:

1. McKenzie SB. Anemias of disordered iron metabolism and heme synthesis. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 198-230.
2. Miller JL. Iron deficiency anemia: A common and curable disease. Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med [Internet]. 2013 Jul 1 [cited 2018 Jun 28];3(7):10.1101/cshperspect.a011866 a011866. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3685880/>
3. Doig K. Disorders of iron kinetics and heme metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 297-313.
4. Finnegan K. Iron metabolism and hypochromic anemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 117-37.

# 31

## Anemia of Chronic Inflammation/Disease (ACI/ACD)

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### **Cause(s):**

Anemia that occurs in patients with conditions that result in chronic inflammatory states such as rheumatoid arthritis, infections, and malignancies. Anemia is reversed when underlying condition is treated and inflammation subsides.<sup>1</sup> Chronic inflammation leads to an increase in inflammatory cytokines and acute phase reactants that alter iron metabolism and decrease RBC production and lifespan.

### **Additional notes:**

Acute phase reactants are serum proteins whose levels are increased by the liver in response to inflammation. Three related acute phase reactants to ACI are:<sup>2</sup>

1. Hepcidin
2. Lactoferrin
3. Ferritin

### **Mechanisms of anemia development in ACI:**<sup>1,3</sup>

1. Decrease in iron available for erythropoiesis (increased hepcidin causes inhibition of iron release from macrophages and decreased iron absorption from the diet, iron bound to lactoferrin and ferritin is not available to developing RBCs)
2. EPO production in the kidneys is inhibited by cytokines

3. Erythropoiesis is inhibited by cytokines (diminishes developing erythroid precursor's response to EPO)
4. Decreased RBC survival (increased activation of macrophages by inflammatory cytokines leads to increased removal of RBCs from circulation and decreased survival)

### Laboratory Features:<sup>1,2,4</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Normal or Increased depending on the cause of the inflammation PLT: Normal Hb: Decreased Hct: Normal to Decreased MCV, MCH, MCHC: Normal to Decreased RDW: Increased	<b>PBS:</b> Normochromic, Normocytic OR Microcytic, hypochromic RBCs	<b>BM:</b> M:E Ratio: Increased (Decreased production of erythroblasts, +/- increased production of myeloids) Iron Stores: Increased
<b>Iron Studies:</b> Serum Iron: Decreased Ferritin: Increased Transferrin: Decreased Transferrin saturation: Normal to Decreased TIBC: Decreased	<b>Other Tests:</b> N/A	

## References:

1. McKenzie SB. Anemias of disordered iron metabolism and heme synthesis. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 198-230.
2. Doig K. Disorders of iron kinetics and heme metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 297-313.
3. Turgeon ML. Hypochromic anemias and disorders of iron metabolism. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 131-144.
4. Finnegan K. Iron metabolism and hypochromic anemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 117-37.

# 32

## Sideroblastic Anemia

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A peripheral blood smear picture showing a dimorphic population of red blood cells: hypochromic, microcytic and normochromic, normocytic red cells. Dimorphism is commonly seen in Sideroblastic Anemia cases. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3P844B3X>

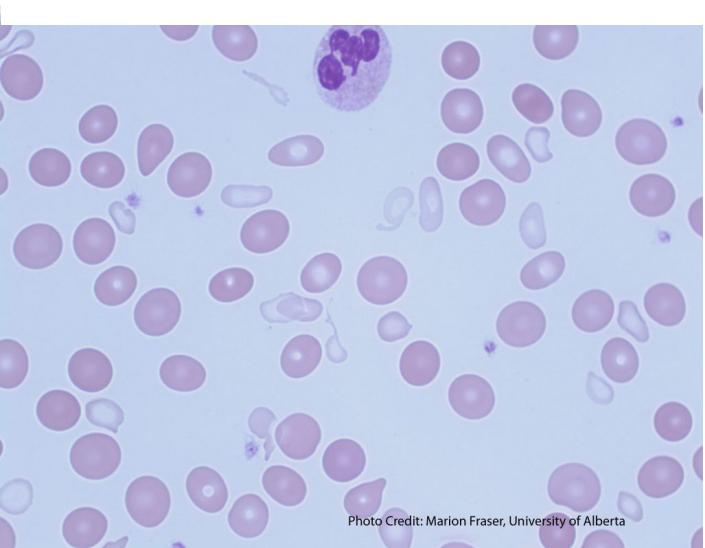


Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

A peripheral blood smear picture showing a dimorphic RBC population and tear cells in sideroblastic anemia. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3CF9JN85>

**Cause(s):** Development of sideroblastic anemia can be due to hereditary or acquired causes that lead to abnormal heme synthesis.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Hereditary:** Sex-linked or autosomal recessive mutations

**Acquired:** Idiopathic, MDS and other malignancies, drugs, lead toxicity

**Laboratory Features of Sideroblastic Anemia:**<sup>1-3</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Variable PLT: Variable Hb: Decreased MCV, MCH, MCHC: Normal to Decreased (as they are averages of the RBC appearance) RDW: Increased RETIC: Decreased	<b>PBS:</b> Dimorphic population (Normochromic/Normocytic alongside Hypochromic/Microcytic ) Tears Schistocytes Pappenheimer bodies Basophilic stippling	<b>BM:</b> M:E Ratio: Decreased Erythroid hyperplasia (ineffective erythropoiesis) Ringed sideroblasts Macrophages have increased iron (Increased iron stores)
<b>Iron Studies:</b> Serum Iron: Increased Ferritin: Increased Transferrin: Normal to Decreased Transferrin Saturation: Increased TIBC: Normal to Decreased	<b>Other Tests:</b> Bilirubin: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased LD: Increased Prussian blue stain of BM shows increased iron levels and ringed sideroblasts	

## References:

1. McKenzie SB. Anemias of disordered iron metabolism and heme synthesis. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 198-230.
2. Doig K. Disorders of iron kinetics and heme metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 297-313.
3. Finnegan K. Iron metabolism and hypochromic anemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 117-37.

# 33

## Thalassemia

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*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=386>*

*Images show thalassemia peripheral blood smears with hypochromic, microcytic red blood cells and poikilocytosis. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3DR2PQ4J>*

*Image 2: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3V698T05>*

*Image 3: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HD7P773>*

Thalassemias are classified as a group of genetic hemoglobin disorders where the production of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  globin chains is affected. This is considered to be a quantitative hemoglobin disorder and is categorized by the affected globin chain (alpha or beta), and as major or minor depending on the severity of the disease.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Alpha-Thalassemia:**

#### **Cause(s):**

$\alpha$  globin chain genes are located on chromosome 16 and there are normally four genes in total ( $\alpha\alpha/\alpha\alpha$ ), two inherited from each parent.  $\alpha$ -thalassemia results when there is a deletion in any number of the  $\alpha$  globin gene. The severity of anemia and amount of  $\alpha$  globin chain production is dependent the number of genes that are deleted.<sup>3</sup>

**$\alpha$ -Thalassemia Silent Carrier ( $\alpha\alpha/\alpha-$ ):<sup>1,2</sup>**

Occurs when one  $\alpha$  gene is deleted. There is still adequate production of  $\alpha$  to ensure normal hemoglobin synthesis. Patient is asymptomatic and the mutation is benign.

In newborns, there is an excess production of  $\gamma$  globin chains. These  $\gamma$  globin chains tend to also form tetramers and result in Hemoglobin Barts (Hb Barts). Hb Barts has a high oxygen affinity and is inefficient for oxygen delivery to the tissues of the developing fetus. In the silent carrier state, there is only a small amount of Hb Barts produced.

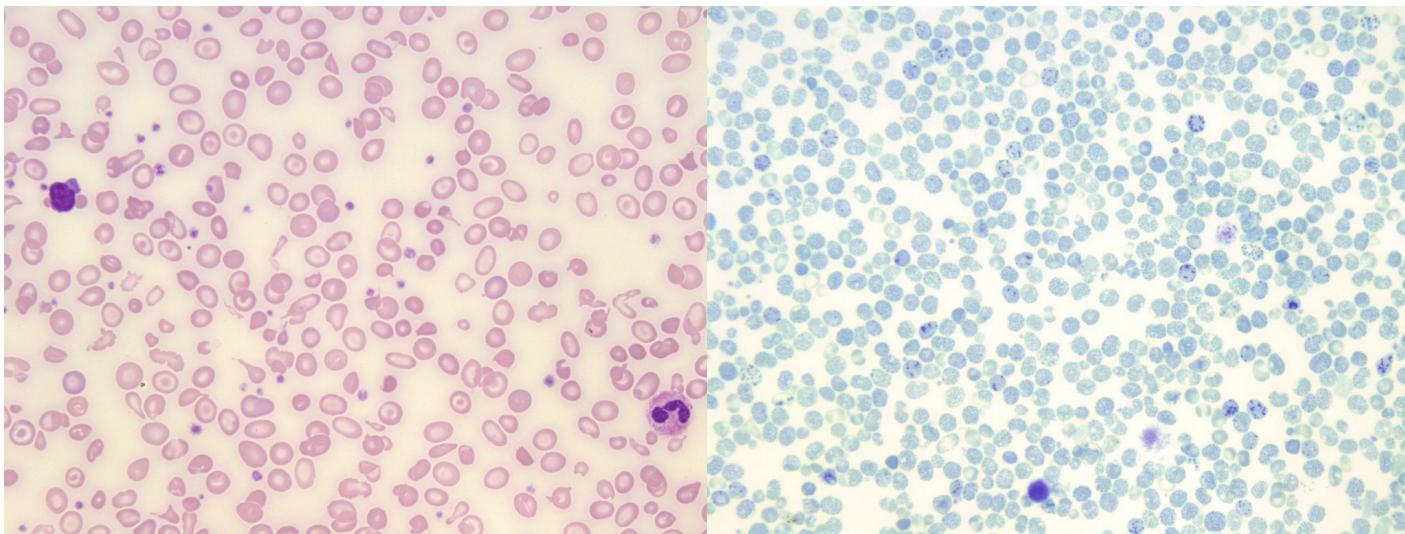
 **$\alpha$ -Thalassemia Minor ( $\alpha\alpha/-$ ) or ( $\alpha-/alpha-$ ):<sup>1,2</sup>**

Occurs when two  $\alpha$  genes are deleted. There is now a 50% reduction in normal  $\alpha$  globin chain production.

In adults, increased production of red blood cells is able to compensate for the decrease in  $\alpha$  chain production, and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  globin chain production is balanced. Patients are asymptomatic and any anemia present is mild.

There is between 5-15% hemoglobin Barts present at birth, but this decreases once  $\beta$  globin chain production takes over and  $\gamma$  globin chain production decreases. In adults, globin chain production is balanced, so no Hemoglobin H is formed.

**Hemoglobin H Disease ( $\alpha-/$ ):<sup>1,2</sup>**



An image of a Hemoglobin H Disease peripheral blood smear showing marked poikilocytosis (tearsdrop cells, schistocytes, target cells, and elliptocytes). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30P0X613>

A supravital stained Hemoglobin H Disease peripheral blood smear. Hemoglobin H inclusions are seen in the red blood cells (Golf-ball like). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3BV7BB0V>

Occurs when three  $\alpha$  genes are deleted.  $\alpha$  gene production is significantly reduced (75% reduction) causing a higher imbalance between the number of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  globin chains being produced. Patients present with a chronic hemolytic anemia that varies from mild to moderate. Patients are transfusion-independent.

The excess  $\beta$  globin chains form tetramers known as Hemoglobin H (Hb H). Hb H is unstable and often precipitates within red blood cells resulting in hemolytic anemia. Production of Hb Barts at birth is increased.

### **Hydrops Fetalis/ $\alpha$ -Thalassemia Major (-/-):<sup>1</sup>**

Occurs when all four  $\alpha$  genes are deleted (no  $\alpha$  globin chain production).

Because no sustainable amount of  $\alpha$  globin chains is produced, this state is usually considered to be incompatible with life. Excess  $\gamma$  globin chains result in the formation of Hb Barts. Due to its high affinity for oxygen, it is not able to efficiently transport oxygen to the tissues of the developing fetus. The marked tissue hypoxia usually results in fetal death in utero or shortly after birth.

**Table 1. Laboratory Findings of  $\alpha$ -Thalassemias<sup>1</sup>**

$\alpha$ -Thalassemia State	CBC and RETIC	PBS	BM	Hemoglobin Content
$\alpha$ -Thalassemia Silent Carrier ( $\alpha\alpha/\alpha-$ )	Hb: Normal RBC: Normal MCV/MCH/MCHC: Normal RDW: Normal RETIC: Normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asymptomatic</li> <li>Normocytic RBCs</li> </ul>	Normal	Hb A: Normal Hb Barts: 1-3% at birth Hb H: 0%
$\alpha$ -Thalassemia Minor ( $\alpha\alpha/-$ ) or ( $\alpha-/$ )	Hb: Normal to Decreased RBC: Normal to Increased MCV/MCH/MCHC: Decreased RDW: Normal RETIC: Elevated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild asymptomatic anemia</li> <li>Hypochromic, microcytic RBCs</li> <li>Poikilocytosis: mainly targets</li> <li>Basophilic Stippling</li> </ul>	Erythroid Hyperplasia	Hb A: Slight decrease Hb Barts: 5-15% at birth Hb H: 0%
Hemoglobin H Disease ( $\alpha-/$ )	Hb: Decreased RBC: Increased MCV/MCH/MCHC: Decreased RDW: Normal to Increased RETIC: Elevated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild to moderate anemia</li> <li>Hypochromic, microcytic RBCs</li> <li>Poikilocytosis: targets, tears, ellipto, schisto, spherico, etc.</li> <li>Polychromasia</li> <li>Basophilic Stippling</li> <li>Howell-Jolly Bodies</li> <li>Pappenheimer Bodies</li> <li>nRBCs</li> <li>Heinz Bodies and Hb H inclusions (Supravital Stain)</li> </ul>	Erythroid Hyperplasia	Hb A: Decreased Hb Barts: 10-40% at birth, traces in adults Hb H: 1-40% in adults
Hydrops Fetalis/ $\alpha$ -Thalassemia Major (-/-)	Hb: Decreased RBC: Decreased MCV/MCH/MCHC: Decreased RDW: Increased RETIC: Elevated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe anemia</li> <li>Hypochromic, microcytic RBCs</li> </ul>	Erythroid Hyperplasia	Hb A: 0% Hb Barts: 80-90% Hb H: Not formed Absent: Hb A, Hb A <sub>2</sub> , Hb F

## Beta-Thalassemias

### Cause(s):

$\beta$  globin chain genes are located on chromosome 11 and there are normally two genes in total ( $\beta/\beta$ ) one inherited from each parent.  $\beta$ -thalassemia is usually due to point mutations in the  $\beta$  globin genes. These point mutations cause production of  $\beta$  globin chains to be reduced ( $\beta^+$ ) or abolished completely ( $\beta^0$ ).<sup>3</sup>

### $\beta$ -Thalassemia Silent Carrier ( $\beta^{\text{Silent}}/\beta$ ):<sup>2</sup>

$\beta$  globin chain genes mutation does not result in any abnormal hematological findings and  $\beta$  globin chain production is normal or nearly normal.

### $\beta$ -Thalassemia Minor ( $\beta^0/\beta$ or $\beta^+/ \beta$ ):<sup>1,2</sup>

One  $\beta$  globin chain gene is mutated while the other  $\beta$  globin chain gene is normal. Patient is able to sufficiently produce enough  $\beta$  globin chains to maintain normal oxygenation and red blood cell lifespan.

Patients are asymptomatic and have mild anemia that can worsen under conditions of stress.

**$\beta$ -Thalassemia Intermedia ( $\beta^+/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$  or  $\beta^0/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$  or  $\beta^{\text{Silent}}/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$ ):<sup>2</sup>**

Mutations in the  $\beta$  genes result in reduced  $\beta$  globin chain production. Clinical symptoms are variable, and more severe than  $\beta$ -Thalassemia Minor, though patients do not require transfusions to survive.

**$\beta$ -Thalassemia Major ( $\beta^+/\beta^+$  or  $\beta^+/beta^0$  or  $\beta^0/\beta^0$ ):<sup>1,2</sup>**

Mutations to both  $\beta$  genes results in severely decreased or absent production of  $\beta$  globin chains. Excess  $\alpha$  globin chains are unable to form tetramers leading to their precipitation and accumulation in the red blood cell. This damages the cell and results in a chronic and severe hemolytic anemia.

Patients require regular transfusions.

**Table 2. Laboratory Findings of  $\beta$ -Thalassemias<sup>2</sup>**

<b>β-Thalassemia State</b>	<b>CBC and RETIC</b>	<b>PBS</b>	<b>BM</b>	<b>Hemoglobin Content</b>
β-Thalassemia Silent Carrier ( $\beta^{\text{Silent}}/\beta$ )	Hb: Normal RBC: Normal MCV/MCH/MCHC: Normal RDW: Normal RETIC: Normal	N/A	N/A	Hb A: Normal Hb A <sub>2</sub> : Normal Hb F: Normal
β-Thalassemia Minor ( $\beta^0/\beta^0$ or $\beta^+/β^0$ )	Hb: Decreased RBC: Normal to Increased MCV/MCH/MCHC: Decreased RDW: Normal RETIC: Normal to Increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypochromic, microcytic RBCs</li> <li>Poikilocytosis: mainly targets</li> <li>Basophilic stippling</li> </ul>	Erythroid Hyperplasia	Hb A: 92-95% Hb A <sub>2</sub> : 3.5-7.0% Hb F: 1-5%
β-Thalassemia Intermedia ( $\beta^+/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$ or $\beta^0/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$ or $\beta^{\text{Silent}}/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$ )	Hb: Decreased RBC: Increased MCV/MCH/MCHC: Decreased RDW: Normal RETIC: Increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypochromic, microcytic RBCs</li> <li>Variable poikilocytosis and anisocytosis depending on the genetic mutation.</li> <li>Polychromasia</li> <li>Basophilic stippling</li> </ul>	Erythroid Hyperplasia	Hb A: Decreased Hb A <sub>2</sub> : Increased Hb F: Increased
β-Thalassemia Major ( $\beta^+/\beta^+$ or $\beta^+/β^0$ or $\beta^0/\beta^0$ or $\beta^{\text{Silent}}/\beta^{\text{Silent}}$ )	Hb: Decreased RBC: Increased MCV/MCH/MCHC: Decreased RDW: Normal to Increased RETIC: Increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypochromic, microcytic RBCs</li> <li>Poikilocytosis: targets, tears, ellipto, schisto, spherro, etc.</li> <li>Polychromasia</li> <li>Basophilic Stippling</li> <li>Howell-Jolly Bodies</li> <li>Pappenheimer Bodies</li> <li>nRBCs</li> <li>Heinz Bodies (supravital stain)</li> </ul>	Erythroid Hyperplasia (Ineffective erythropoiesis)	Hb A: Absent or decreased Hb A <sub>2</sub> : Variable Hb F: 70-90%

## Other Laboratory Tests to Assess Thalassemia:<sup>2</sup>

Iron Studies (Thalassemia Iron Studies are shown in the next chapter)

Hemoglobin Electrophoresis

High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)

Molecular testing for genetic mutations/deletions

**Notes:**

Above results are only typical findings, which may be altered depending on individual variation, treatment given (such as RBC transfusions), and genetic sub-type.

The peripheral blood smear picture for the minor forms of Thalassemia look very similar to that of Iron Deficiency Anemia. The difference between the two conditions can be distinguished by comparing iron study results, as well as specific CBC findings (RDW, RBC count), and peripheral smear findings (inclusions, poikilocytosis).<sup>2</sup>

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## References:

1. Randolph TR. Thalassemia. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 251-276.
2. Keohane EM. Thalassemias. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 454-74.
3. Chonat S, Quinn CT. Current standards of care and long term outcomes for thalassemia and sickle cell disease. *Adv Exp Med Biol [Internet]*. 2017 [cited 2018 Jun 5];1013:59-87. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5720159/>

# 34

## Iron Studies

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*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=400>

*Images of iron stained bone marrow particle smears showing various amounts of iron stores (indicated by the amount of blue present). Perls Prussian Blue. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 10x magnification. Low iron stores. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3NC5ST92>*

*Image 2: 10x magnification. Normal iron stores. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3XP6VK0C>*

*Image 3: 10x magnification. High iron stores. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3ZP3WG13>*

**Table 1. Iron studies of hypochromic and microcytic anemias.<sup>1-3</sup>**

Anemia	Serum Iron	Ferritin	Transferrin	Transferrin Saturation	TIBC	BM Iron stores
<b>IDA</b>	D	D	I	D	I	Absent/D
<b>Thalassemia Minor</b>	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N	N/I
<b>Anemia of Chronic Inflammation</b>	D	I	N	N/D	D	I
<b>Sideroblastic Anemia</b>	I	I	N/D	I	N/D	I

N = Normal I = Increased D = Decreased

## **References:**

1. McKenzie SB. Anemias of disordered iron metabolism and heme synthesis. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 198-230.
2. Doig K. Disorders of iron kinetics and heme metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 297-313.
3. Finnegan K. Iron metabolism and hypochromic anemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 117-37.

V

# RED BLOOD CELLS: DNA METABOLISM ABNORMALITIES & BONE MARROW FAILURE

# 35

# Megaloblastic Anemia

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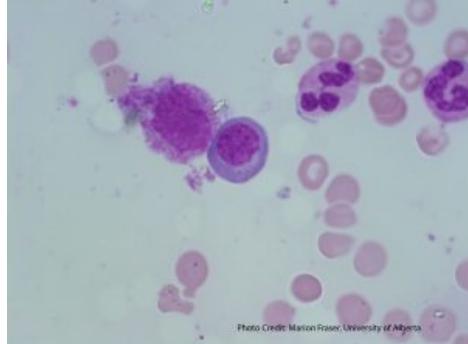


Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

An image of a megaloblastic bone marrow showing nuclear-cytoplasmic asynchrony in a polychromatric normoblast. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3Q81576M>

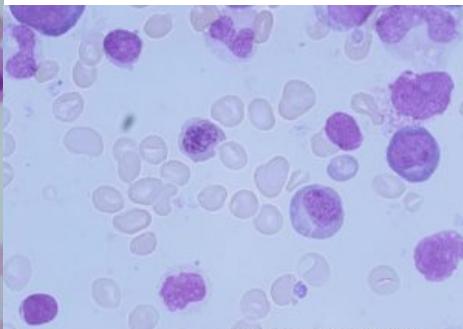
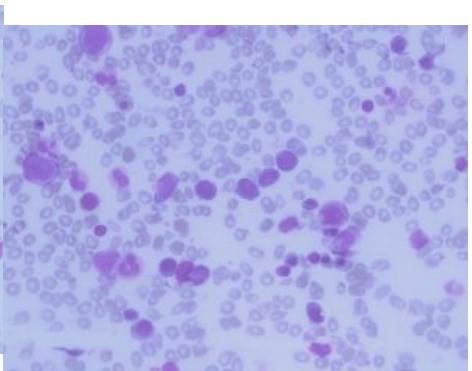
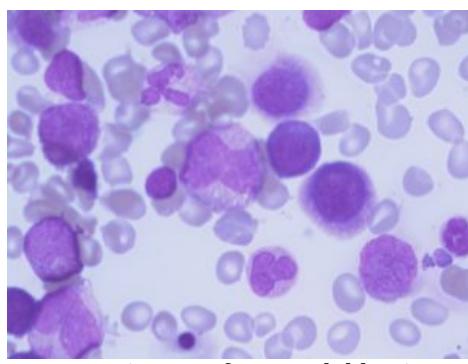


Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

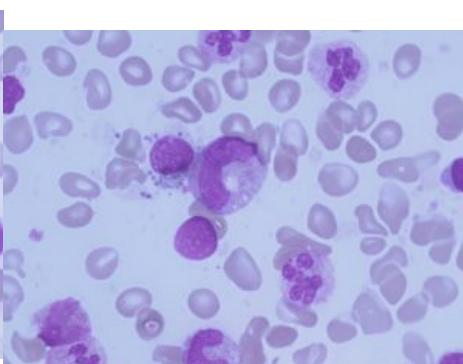
An image of a megaloblastic bone marrow showing nuclear-cytoplasmic asynchrony in erythroid precursors. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3KK94T57>



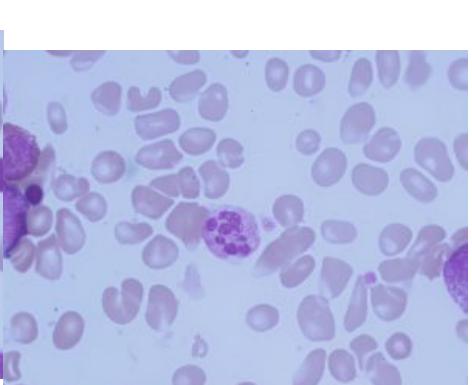
An image of a megaloblastic bone marrow demonstrating erythroid hyperplasia and nuclear-cytoplasmic asynchrony. 40x magnification. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3C24R36T>



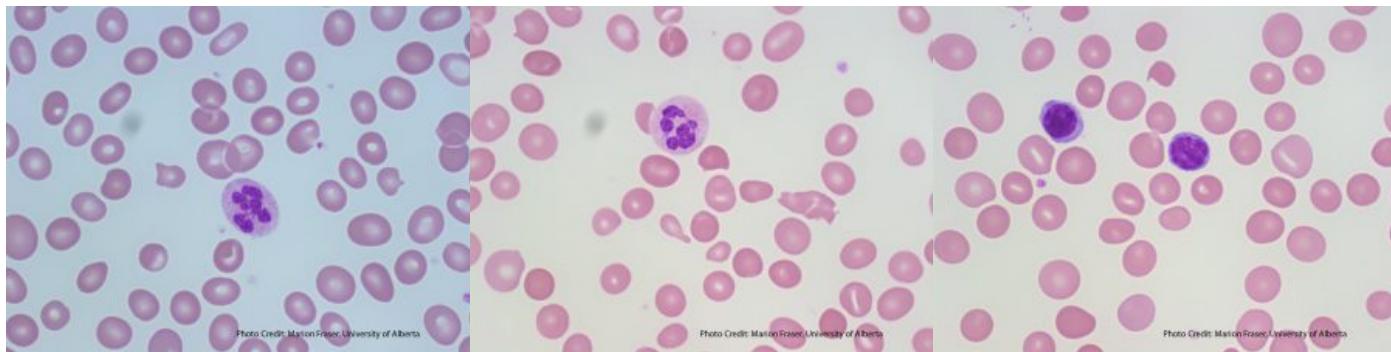
An image of a megaloblastic bone marrow demonstrating a giant metamyelocyte. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R33J39G7T>



An image of a megaloblastic bone marrow showing a hypersegmented neutrophil and a giant band. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3794191K>



An image of a megaloblastic bone marrow demonstrating a hypersegmented neutrophil. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3V11W200>



An image of a megaloblastic peripheral blood smear showing a hypersegmented neutrophil and oval macrocytes. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R36970D1B>

An image of a megaloblastic peripheral blood smear showing a hypersegmented neutrophil and oval macrocytes. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3B27Q653>

A megaloblastic peripheral blood smear demonstrating oval macrocytes. Small lymphocytes are present for size comparison. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3XS5JZ3P>

### Cause(s):

Megaloblastic anemia occurs when there are defects in DNA synthesis that cause problems with blood cell production and maturation (all cells are affected, not just red blood cells). Megaloblastic anemia is most commonly caused by deficiencies in Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (cobalamin) and folate (folic acid). Both Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and folate are important factors used in the process of DNA synthesis.<sup>1</sup>

### Cellular characteristics of Megaloblastic Anemia:

1. A characteristic finding in bone marrow smears for megaloblastic anemia would be the appearance of nuclear-cytoplasmic (N:C) asynchrony in all cell lines.<sup>1</sup> N:C asynchrony describes the inability of the cell's chromatin to mature normally giving the nucleus a more immature, more fine, looser, and larger appearance than expected compared to that of the cytoplasm. Cytoplasm maturation is not affected and matures normally. Due to these characteristics, the cells are described as megaloblastic.<sup>1,2</sup>
2. Another characteristic finding on the peripheral blood smear would be the appearance of hypersegmented neutrophils. Hypersegmentation is described when either observation is present:<sup>1,2</sup>
  - 5% or more neutrophils have 5 lobes

- One neutrophil with  $\geq$  6 lobes

3. Oval macrocytes are also indicative of megaloblastic anemia.<sup>2</sup>

### **Function of Folate and Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> in DNA synthesis:**

Folate is ingested as folic acid which is inactive. The process of converting folic acid to its active form (Tetrahydrofolate, THF) requires the help of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>.<sup>1</sup> Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> is used as a cofactor in a reaction that converts inactive folate (N5-methylTHF) into the active Tetrahydrofolate (THF) form which is then used to continue DNA synthesis.<sup>1,3</sup> Without Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> or folate, the nucleotide thymidine cannot be produced and DNA synthesis is impaired.<sup>2</sup>

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## **Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin)**

### **Absorption:**

Available in eggs, milk, and meat. The low pH in the stomach causes Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to be released from ingested proteins. Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> then binds to haptocorrin to be transported into the duodenum. In the duodenum, proteases release the Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and then it is picked up by intrinsic factor where it transports it to enterocytes of the ileum to be absorbed.<sup>1</sup>

### **Transport in circulation:**

Once absorbed by the gastrointestinal tract, the transport protein called transcobalamin binds the Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to be transported to the rest of the body in circulation.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency:**

Can occur due to a variety of causes such as: malabsorption, bacterial and parasitic infection,

inadequate intake in the diet, or impaired utilization by the body.<sup>1,2</sup>

Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency can develop secondary to the absence of intrinsic factor (IF) which is used to help absorb Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> into the body. IF deficiency can be caused by autoantibodies against IF and gastric cells resulting in a type of anemia called Pernicious anemia.<sup>1,3</sup>

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## Folate (Folic acid)

### Absorption:

Folate can be found in yeast, milk, eggs, mushrooms, and leafy greens and is easily destroyed by heat. Folate is absorbed throughout the gastrointestinal tract as folic acid and converted into N5-methylTHF in the cells.<sup>1</sup>

### Folate deficiency:

Causes of folate deficiency can be due to inadequate intake in the diet, malabsorption, drugs that interfere with use, and an increased need (such as during pregnancy or rapid growth).<sup>1,3</sup>

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### Laboratory Features of Megaloblastic Anemia:<sup>1,3</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> RBC, WBC, PLT, Hb, Hct: Decreased *MCV: Usually > 110 fL MCH: Increased MCHC: Normal RETIC: Normal to decreased	<b>PBS:</b> *Ovalmacrocytes Howell-Jolly Bodies *Hypersegmented neutrophils Schistocytes Teardrop Cells	<b>BM:</b> M:E Ratio: decreased (Ineffective erythropoiesis) Hypercellular *N:C asynchrony Enlarged precursors Giant metamyelocytes and bands
<b>Other Tests:</b> Folate deficiency - Serum Folate: Decreased Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> deficiency - Serum Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> : Decreased - IF blocking antibodies - Antibody assays (Pernicious anemia)		

\* Indicates the characteristic morphological findings in megaloblastic anemia blood smears

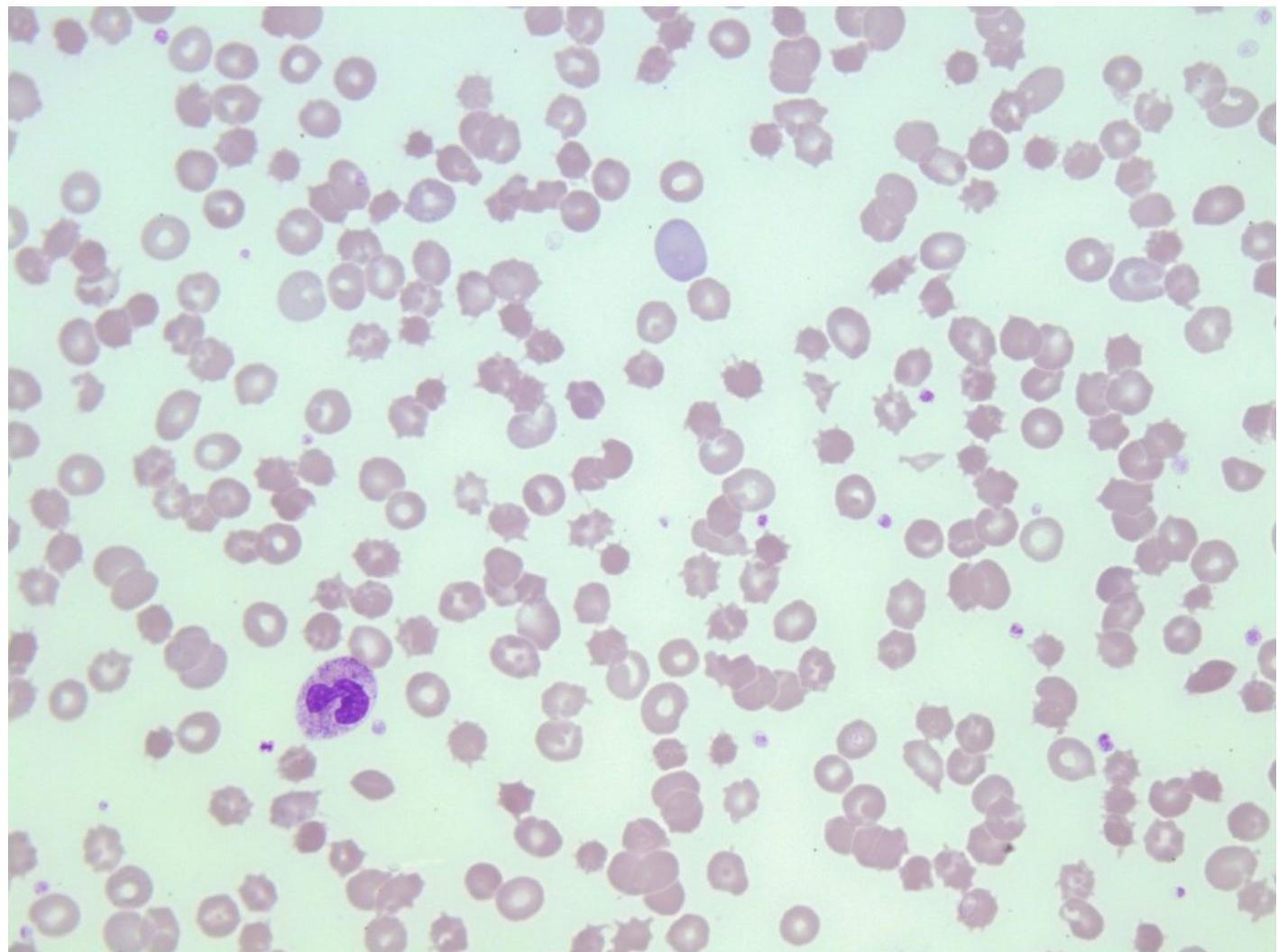
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1. Hubbard J, Robinson S. Megaloblastic and nonmegaloblastic macrocytic anemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 277-301.
2. Goossen LH. Anemias caused by defects of DNA metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 314-30.
3. Nagao T, Hirokawa M. Diagnosis and treatment of macrocytic anemias in adults. *J Gen Fam Med* [Internet]. 2017 Oct 13 [cited 2018 Jun 25];18(5):200-4. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/jgf2.31>

# 36

## Non-Megaloblastic Macrocytic Anemia

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An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating round macrocytes and poikilocytosis in liver disease. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MP4W32X>

### Cause(s):

A group of anemias that present with macrocytes without megaloblastic features. Most often, non-megaloblastic macrocytic anemias are caused by: alcoholism, liver disease, bone marrow failure, and

myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).<sup>1,2</sup>

Chronic and heavy consumption of alcohol can lead to macrocytosis due to a variety of effects it has in erythrocyte development. Alcohol can not only interfere with folate metabolism but also is also directly toxic on bone marrow precursors.<sup>1,3</sup>

Liver disease is commonly associated with alcoholism and it is thought that macrocytosis is caused by an increase in cholesterol and lipids in the red blood cell membrane.<sup>3</sup>

**Note:** Additional information about bone marrow failure and MDS will be discussed in later chapters.

### **Laboratory Features:** <sup>1-4</sup>

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**CBC:**  
PLT: Decreased

\*MCV: usually 100-110 fL  
(MCV is rarely >110 fL)

\*RETIC: Increased (if hemolytic anemia is present)

**PBS:**  
\*Round Macrocytes  
Target cells  
\*No hypersegmented neutrophils

**BM:**  
Normocellular or hypercellular  
Erythroid hyperplasia  
\*Megaloblastic features are absent in precursors

**Iron Studies (Liver Disease):**  
Serum Iron: Decreased to Normal  
Ferritin: Increased  
Transferrin: Normal  
Transferrin Saturation: Normal to Increased

**Other Tests:**  
Liver enzyme tests

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\*Features that differentiate megaloblastic from non-megaloblastic anemias

**References:**

1. Hubbard J, Robinson S. Megaloblastic and nonmegaloblastic macrocytic anemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 277-301.
2. Nagao T, Hirokawa M. Diagnosis and treatment of macrocytic anemias in adults. *J Gen Fam Med* [Internet]. 2017 Oct 13 [cited 2018 Jun 25];18(5):200-4. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/jgf2.31>
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4. Goossen LH. Anemias caused by defects of DNA metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 314-30.

# Aplastic Anemia

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

## **Bone Marrow Failure:**

Bone marrow failure is characterized by reduced hematopoiesis in the bone marrow resulting in cytopenias in one or more cell lines. Decreased hematopoiesis can be attributed to:<sup>1</sup>

1. Destruction of hematopoietic stem cells due to acquired causes
2. Destruction of hematopoietic stems cells due to inherited causes
3. Ineffective erythropoiesis
4. Disruption of bone marrow microenvironment
5. Reduced production of growth factors and hormones related to hematopoiesis
6. Infiltration of the bone marrow

Aplastic anemia is a bone marrow failure syndrome that is characterized by a decreased cell count in all cell lines (pancytopenia) and a hypocellular (aplastic) bone marrow. (McKenzie ch 16 pg 303, Rodak ch 22 pg 332) Unlike other anemias, hepatosplenomegaly and lymphadenopathy are absent. (McKenzie ch 16 pg 307)

## **Cause(s):**

There is no known, single cause of aplastic anemia but it's development can be associated with a variety of clinical states and agents which can be either acquired or inherited.<sup>1,2</sup> It is thought that acquired causes of aplastic anemia can lead to an immunologic response against one's own hematopoietic stem cells.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1. List of acquired and inherited causes of aplastic anemia.<sup>1-3</sup>**

<b>Acquired:</b>	<b>Inherited:</b>
Idiopathic	Fanconi Anemia (autosomal recessive, rare X-linked recessive)
Drugs and Chemicals	Dyskeratosis congenita
Radiation	Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome
Infectious agents	
Clonal Disorders (e.g. MDS, PNH)	

**Laboratory Features of Aplastic Anemia:<sup>1,3</sup>**

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Decreased PLT: Decreased Hb: Decreased RETIC: Decreased MCV: Normal to increased	<b>PBS:</b> Pancytopenia (Thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, anemia) Normochromic Normocytic or macrocytic	<b>BM:</b> Hypocellular or dry tap Fatty infiltration
<b>Iron Studies:</b> Serum Iron: Increased Ferritin: Increased Transferrin: Normal Transferrin Saturation: Normal to increased	<b>Other Tests:</b> Molecular testing Flow cytometry	

**References:**

1. Lo C, Glader B, Sakamoto KM. Bone marrow failure. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 331-47.
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3. Perkins SL. Aplastic anemia including pure red cell aplasia, congenital dyserythropoietic anemia, and paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 156-75.

VI

# RED BLOOD CELLS: INTRODUCTION TO HEMOLYTIC ANEMIAS

# 38

# Introduction to Hemolytic Anemias

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**Hemolytic anemia** refers to a process where there is increased red blood cell destruction or decreased red blood cell survival (hemolysis) leading to a drop in the measured hemoglobin (anemia).<sup>1</sup>

The type of hemolysis can be categorized into different categories based on the location of the hemolysis (intravascular or extravascular) or the cause (intrinsic or extrinsic).

Intravascular and extravascular refers to the location of the hemolytic process, whether the process is taking place within the blood vessels (intra) or outside the blood vessels (extra).<sup>2</sup>

Intrinsic and extrinsic refers to the cause of red blood cell destruction relative to the red blood cell itself. If the cause is due to an issue with the red blood cell (e.g. inherited defects of the RBC), it is referred to as being intrinsic. If the cause is due to factors from outside the red blood cell (e.g. environment), it is referred to as being extrinsic.<sup>2</sup>

Compensated hemolysis refers to the ability of the bone marrow to increase red blood cell production in order to compensate for the rate of hemolysis. As a result, anemia does not develop.<sup>2</sup>

---

## Extravascular (Macrophage-mediated) Hemolysis

## (EVH)

### **Process:**<sup>1, 3-5</sup>

1. RBCs are phagocytized in the spleen, bone marrow, or liver by macrophages.
2. Hemoglobin is broken down into iron, globin, and the protoporphyrin ring.
3. Iron is carried by transferrin to the bone marrow be reused or stored as ferritin or hemosiderin.
4. Globin is broken down into amino acids to be recycled.
5. The protoporphyrin ring is further is broken down to biliverdin and then to unconjugated bilirubin in the macrophage.
6. Unconjugated bilirubin is then released and carried by albumin to the liver.
7. In the liver, unconjugated bilirubin is converted to conjugated bilirubin (bilirubin diglucuronide).
8. Conjugated bilirubin is excreted with bile into the intestines where it is converted into urobilinogen by bacteria.
9. A majority of the urobilinogen is then excreted in feces, a small amount is reabsorbed by the kidney, and another portion is excreted into the urine.

---

## Intravascular (Fragmentation) Hemolysis (IVH)

### **Process:**<sup>3-5</sup>

1. RBC hemolysis occurs in the blood vessels and hemoglobin is released into circulation.
2. Hemoglobin dissociates into  $\alpha\beta$  dimers and is picked up by Haptoglobin where it is carried to the liver.
3. Subsequent catabolic steps are the same as extravascular hemolysis from the liver onwards.
4. If haptoglobin is not available, the  $\alpha\beta$  dimers become oxidized into methemoglobin where it is

broken down into metheme and globin.

5. Metheme is carried by hemopexin to the liver.
  6. If hemopexin is not available, metheme binds albumin instead to form methalalbumin.,
  7. Methemalalbumin continues to circulate the body until hemopexin becomes available.
- 

**Table 1. Comparison of IVH and EVH Laboratory Findings<sup>1-3</sup>**

Test	IVH	EVH
<b>RBC, Hct, Hb</b>	Decreased	Decreased
<b>Total Bilirubin</b>	Increased	Increased
<b>LDH</b>	Increased	Slightly Increased
<b>Haptoglobin</b>	Decreased	Slightly Decreased
<b>Hemopexin</b>	Decreased	Slightly Decreased
<b>Hemosiderinuria</b>	Present	Absent
<b>Hemoglobinuria</b>	Present	Absent
<b>RBC Morphology</b>	Schistocytes	Spherocytes
<b>Examples</b>	PNH, PCH, MAHAs, Mechanical trauma, Bacterial Infections, Thermal Injury	Thalassemia (Other hemoglobinopathies), Enzymopathies, Membranopathies, Megaloblastic anemia, Autoimmune hemolytic anemia, Drug-induced hemolytic anemia

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## References:

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2. McKenzie SB, Otto CN. Introduction to anemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p.178-97.
3. Doig K. Introduction to increased destruction of erythrocytes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 348-66.
4. McKenzie SB. Hemoglobin. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 77-96.
5. Harmening DM. The red blood cell: structure and function. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 64-81.

VII

# RED BLOOD CELLS: HEMOGLOBINOPATHIES

# 39

# Normal Hemoglobin Structure

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## Location of globin genes:<sup>1</sup>

Chromosome 16: α globin genes

Chromosome 11: β globin genes

One α globin gene and one β globin gene are inherited from each parent.

Normal hemoglobin A is made up of two α globin chains, two β globin chains, and four heme molecules.

Heme is formed from protoporphyrin ring precursors and ferrous iron ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ).

**Table #1 Normal hemoglobin content at various stages of life.<sup>1</sup>**

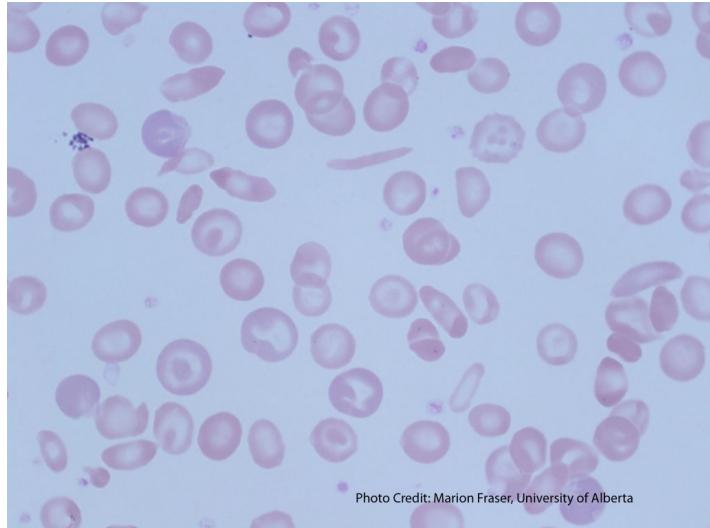
<b>Embryonic:</b>	<b>Fetal:</b>	<b>Adult:</b>
Hb Gower I      ( $\zeta_2\epsilon_2$ )	HbF      ( $\alpha_2\gamma_2$ )	HbA      ( $\alpha_2\beta_2$ )      >95%
Hb Gower II      ( $\alpha_2\epsilon_2$ )		HbA <sub>2</sub> ( $\alpha_2\delta_2$ )      <3.5%
Hb Portland      ( $\zeta_2\gamma_2$ )		HbF      ( $\alpha_2\gamma_2$ )      1-2%

## References:

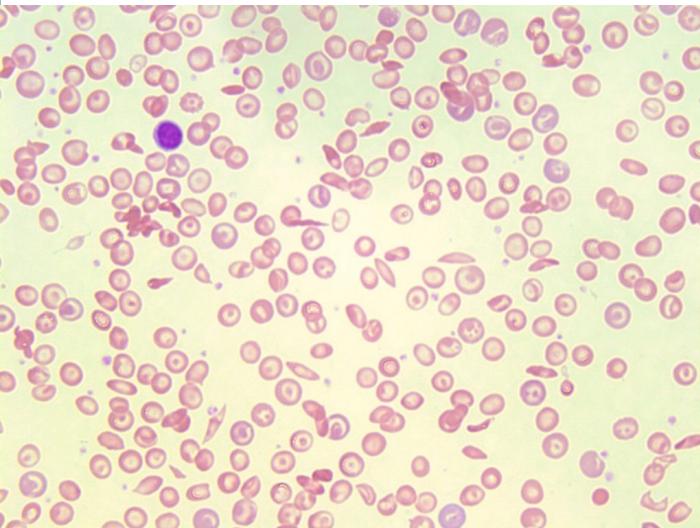
1. Keohane EM. Hemoglobin metabolism. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 124-36.

# 40 Sickle Cell (Hemoglobin SS) Disease

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An image of a peripheral blood smear of a patient with sickle cell disease. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3G737K46>



An image of a peripheral blood smear containing sickle cells, target cells, and increased polychromasia. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3XP6VJ98>

## Cause(s):

$\beta$  globin chain amino acid substitution in the 6th position from glutamic acid (Glu) to valine (Val). In the homozygous form of the disease, both  $\beta$  globin genes are affected.<sup>1</sup>

## Inheritance:

Autosomal dominant<sup>2</sup>

## Demographics:<sup>3</sup>

Tropical Africa

Mediterranean Areas

Sickle cell disease is common in areas where malaria is prominent and it is suggested that the disease acts as a protective factor for malaria. This protection is only seen in heterozygotes, as homozygotes often lose splenic function, which is essential for combating the parasite.

**Cellular Features:**<sup>1-4</sup>

See sickle cell (drepanocytes) under RBC morphology for more information about cell formation.

The formation of sickle cells becomes irreversible over time leading to the formation of rigid and "sticky" sickle cell aggregates resulting in many complications.

**Complications:**<sup>1-4</sup>

Chronic hemolytic anemia

Vaso-occlusion (can lead to ischemic tissue injury, splenic sequestration of RBCs, autosplenectomy)

Prone to infections

Nephropathies

Stroke

**Laboratory Features of Sickle Cell Disease:**<sup>2-4</sup>

**CBC:**  
 RBC: Decreased  
 WBC: Increased  
 PLT: Increased  
 Hb: Decreased  
 RETIC: Increased  
 RDW: Increased

**PBS:**  
 Sickle cells  
 Normochromic, normocytic RBCs  
 Target cells  
 Polychromasia  
 nRBCs  
 Howell-Jolly bodies  
 Pappenheimer bodies  
 Basophilic Stippling

**BM:**  
 Erythroid Hyperplasia  
 Iron stores: often increased

#### Hemoglobin Electrophoresis:

Hb S: 80-95%  
 Hb A: None  
 Hb A<sub>2</sub>: 2-%  
 Hb F: 5-20%

#### Other Tests:

Solubility Screen: Positive  
 Metasulfite Sickling Test: Positive  
 HPLC  
 Hemoglobin Electrophoresis

## References:

- Chonat S, Quinn CT. Current standards of care and long term outcomes for thalassemia and sickle cell disease. *Adv Exp Med Biol* [Internet]. 2017 [cited 2018 Jun 5];1013:59-87. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5720159/>
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## Sickle Cell Trait (Hemoglobin AS)

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### **Cause(s):**

$\beta$  globin chain amino acid substitution in the 6th position from glutamic acid (Glu) to valine (Val). Only one  $\beta$  globin genes is affected.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Inheritance:**

Heterozygous state where one normal  $\beta$  globin gene and one affected  $\beta$  globin gene are inherited.<sup>3</sup>

### **Clinical Findings:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Due to the presence of Hb A and reduced concentration of HB S, polymerization of Hb S and sickling of red blood cells does not normally occur. As a result, condition is mostly benign and asymptomatic.

Sickling can still occur under extremely low hypoxic conditions.

### **Laboratory Features:**<sup>1-3</sup>

**CBC:**  
All parameters (Even Hb) are normal

**PBS:**  
Absence of sickle cells  
PBS appears normal  
(may see a slight increase in target cells)

**BM:**  
N/A

**Hemoglobin Electrophoresis:**

Hb S: 35-45%  
Hb A: 50-65%  
Hb A<sub>2</sub>: Normal  
Hb F: Normal  
Hb A:Hb S is ~60:40

**Other Tests:**

Solubility Screen: Positive  
Metasulfite Sickling Test: Positive  
HPLC  
Hemoglobin Electrophoresis

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## References:

1. Laudicina RJ. Hemoglobinopathies: qualitative defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p.231-50.
2. Harmening DM, Yang D, Zerinder H. Hemolytic anemias: extracorporeal defects. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 250-79).
3. Randolph TR. Hemoglobinopathies (structural defects in hemoglobin). In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 426-453.

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## Hemoglobin C (Hb CC) Disease

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

### **Cause(s):**

$\beta$  globin chain amino acid substitution in the 6th position from glutamic acid (Glu) to lysine (Lys).<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Inheritance:**

Autosomal dominant<sup>1</sup>

### **Demographics:**

West Africa<sup>1</sup>

### **Clinical Features:**<sup>1-3</sup>

See Hemoglobin C under RBC inclusions for additional information.

Less splenic sequestration and milder chronic hemolysis compared to sickle cell disease. Patients are usually asymptomatic.

### **Laboratory Features:**<sup>1,2</sup>

**CBC:**  
Hb: Decreased  
Hct: Decreased

**PBS:**  
Normochromic, normocytic RBCs  
\*Hb C crystals  
Target cells  
nRBCs

**BM:**  
N/A

**Hemoglobin Electrophoresis:**

Hb S: >90  
Hb A: None  
Hb A<sub>2</sub>: Normal  
Hb F: <7%

**Other Tests:**

Solubility Screen: Negative  
Metasulfite Sickling Test: Negative  
HPLC  
Hemoglobin Electrophoresis

\*Not always seen, more likely in patients who have had a splenectomy.

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## References:

1. Laudicina RJ. Hemoglobinopathies: qualitative defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p.231-50.
2. Randolph TR. Hemoglobinopathies (structural defects in hemoglobin). In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 426-453.
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# 43

## Hemoglobin SC Disease

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

### **Cause(s):**

Both  $\beta$  globin chains are affected as both genes for hemoglobin S and hemoglobin C are both inherited.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Clinical Features:<sup>1</sup>**

Complication is less severe than sickle cell disease but more severe than hemoglobin C disease. Cells are still prone to sickling under decreased oxygen tension.

Complications are similar to those seen in sickle cell anemia and vaso-occlusion can occur.

### **Laboratory Features:<sup>1,2</sup>**

---

**CBC:**  
Hb: Decreased  
Hct: Decreased  
MCHC: Increased

**PBS:**  
Normochromic  
Normocytic  
Target Cells  
HbSC crystals

**BM:**  
N/A

**Hemoglobin Electrophoresis:**  
Hb S: 45%  
Hb C: 45%  
Hb A: None  
Hb A<sub>2</sub>: 2-4%  
Hb F: 1%

---

**Other Tests:**  
Solubility Tests: Positive  
HPLC  
Hemoglobin Electrophoresis

### **References:**

1. Laudicina RJ. Hemoglobinopathies: qualitative defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed.

New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p.231-50.

2. Randolph TR. Hemoglobinopathies (structural defects in hemoglobin). In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 426-453.

VIII

# RED BLOOD CELLS: EXTRINSIC DEFECTS CAUSING HEMOLYTIC ANEMIAS

# 44

# Microangiopathic Hemolytic Anemias (MAHAs)

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*An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:*

<https://pressbooks.library.ulberta.ca/mlsci/?p=464>

*Images of peripheral blood smears demonstrating features of microangiopathic hemolytic anemia . Note the presence of schistocytes, increased polychromasia, and lack of platelets. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3FX74D2V>

*Image 2: 100 oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3B56DK8D>

*Image 3: 50x oil immersion.* <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3639KM46>

## **Introduction:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Microangiopathic hemolytic anemias are a group of disorders that involve the fragmentation of red blood cells in the circulation due to the formation of microthrombi in the microvasculature. This results in intravascular hemolysis and thrombocytopenia.

Red blood cells are physically damaged as they pass through blood vessels resulting in the formation of schistocytes (intravascular hemolysis). The damaged red blood cells are then often removed from circulation by the spleen resulting in extravascular hemolysis.

These features can be found in certain clinical states:

1. Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)
2. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP)
3. Hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS)
4. HELLP Syndrome (Hemolysis, Elevated liver enzymes and Low platelets)

### **General Laboratory Findings of MAHAs:<sup>3</sup>**

<b>CBC:</b> PLT: Decreased Hb: Decreased RETIC: Increased	<b>PBS:</b> Schistocytes Polychromasia nRBCs	<b>Other Tests:</b> Unconjugated Bilirubin: Increased LDH: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased Urine urobilinogen: Increased Variable hemoglobinuria and hemoglobinemia
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## **References:**

1. Smith LA. Hemolytic anemia: nonimmune defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p.372-87.
2. Harmening DM, Yang D, Zerinder H. Hemolytic anemias: extracorporeal defects. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 250-79).
2. Keohane EM. Extrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction - nonimmune causes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 394-410.

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# Macroangiopathic Hemolytic Anemias

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## Traumatic Cardiac Hemolytic Anemia

In this condition, hemolysis is due to mechanical trauma caused by prosthetic cardiac valves. High blood flow around the prosthetic causes red blood cells to fragment leading to intravascular hemolysis. Any damaged cells that do not hemolyze in circulation are removed by the spleen via extravascular hemolysis.<sup>1,2</sup>

Hemolytic anemia due to traumatic cardiac causes is uncommon and platelet count is not usually decreased drastically. Any hemolysis that occurs is often compensated by the bone marrow.<sup>1,2</sup>

### Laboratory Findings for Traumatic Cardiac Hemolytic Anemia:<sup>2</sup>

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<b>CBC:</b> PLT: Normal Hb: Decreased RETIC: Increased	<b>PBS:</b> Schistocytes	<b>Other Tests:</b> Unconjugated Bilirubin: Increased LD: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased
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## Exercise-induced Hemoglobinuria

Transient hemolysis that occurs due to stress caused by exercise. Most often due to activities involving contact with hard surfaces such as running. Red blood cells become damaged as they pass through

small vessels. Anemia usually does not develop unless hemolysis is severe.<sup>1</sup>

### Laboratory Findings for Exercise-induced Hemoglobinuria:<sup>2</sup>

---

**CBC:**  
Hb: Increased  
RETIC: Increased  
MCV: Slight increase

**PBS:**  
Schistocytes are NOT present

**Other Tests:**  
Unconjugated Bilirubin: Increased  
LDH: Increased  
Haptoglobin: Decreased  
Hemoglobinuria

---

## Thermal Injury

Hemolytic anemia can develop after thermal burns to the body. Degree of hemolysis is dependent on the amount of surface area affected. Hemolysis is due to direct thermal damage to the red blood cells.<sup>1</sup>

### Laboratory Findings for Thermal Injury:<sup>1</sup>

---

**CBC:**  
Hb: Decreased

**PBS:**  
Schistocytes  
Micro-Spherocytes

**Other Tests:**  
Hemoglobinuria

---

## References:

1. Smith LA. Hemolytic anemia: nonimmune defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p.372-87.
2. Keohane EM. Extrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction – nonimmune causes. In:

Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 394-410.

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## Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemias

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Hemolytic anemias can be caused by antibodies that can be directed against self (auto-antibodies) or foreign (allo-antibodies) antigens. Antibodies implicated vary in immunoglobulin class and optimal temperature of reactivity.

**Table 1. Comparison of Warm and Cold Reacting Antibodies.<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>Warm</b>	<b>Cold</b>
<b>Immunoglobulin Class</b>	IgG	IgM (Exception: autoanti- P is IgG)
<b>Optimal Temperature</b>	37°C	<30°C (often at 4°C) Pathological cold agglutinins react closer to body temperature
<b>Mechanism of Hemolysis</b>	Extravascular IgG or C3b attachment to macrophages	Extravascular or Intravascular Complement-mediated
<b>Specificity</b>	anti-Rh (Broad specificity)	Autoanti-I Autoanti-i Autoanti-P

### **Warm Auto-Immune Hemolytic Anemia (WAIHA)**

**Associated Conditions:**<sup>2,3</sup>

Lymphoproliferative diseases (e.g. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia)

Other autoimmune diseases: systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis

Ingestion of certain drugs

Some non lymphoid neoplasms

Some inflammatory diseases

**Affected age:** Usually old age (>40 years old).<sup>1</sup>

**Antibody Specificity:** Panreactive, polyclonal anti-Rh (IgG).<sup>3</sup>

### Pathophysiology:

Often due to a Pan-reacting antibody against the Rh blood group system causing extravascular hemolysis. The antibodies bind to the red blood cells, resulting in their removal by macrophages in the spleen. Incomplete phagocytosis results in the removal of only some of the red blood cell membrane allowing the rest to reform. This reformation changes the red blood cell shape, and it becomes as spherocyte. Red blood cells can also be coated with complement along with IgG antibodies as another mechanism of opsonization and removal from circulation.<sup>3</sup>

### Laboratory Findings for WAIHA:<sup>1-3</sup>

**CBC:**  
WBC: Normal to increased  
PLT: Normal to increased  
Hb: Decreased  
RETIC: Increased

**PBS:**  
Normochromic  
Normocytic  
Spherocytes  
Polychromasia  
+/- nRBCs

**BM:**  
Erythroid hyperplasia  
Erythrophagocytosis by macrophages

**Other Tests:**  
DAT: Positive (IgG & C3b)  
Osmotic Fragility: Increased  
Antibody Screen: Positive with all cells  
Autocontrol: Positive  
Bilirubin: Increased  
Haptoglobin: Decreased  
LD: Increased  
Hemoglobinuria: Positive  
Hemosiderinuria: Positive

# Cold Agglutinin Disease (CAD)

## **Associated Conditions:**<sup>2</sup>

Primarily idiopathic

B-cell lymphoproliferative neoplasms

*Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (anti-I)

Infectious mononucleosis (anti-i)

**Affected age:** > 50 years old.<sup>2</sup>

**Antibody Specificity:** Autoanti-I and autoanti-i.<sup>2</sup>

Autoantibody is an IgM antibody that reacts optimally below body temperature, usually around 4°C<sup>2</sup>. Pathological cold agglutinins will react closer to body temperature (around 30°C).

Can be polyclonal (i.e. infections) or monoclonal (Monoclonal is more pathogenic).<sup>1</sup>

## **Pathophysiology:**

Under cold temperatures (circulation in the extremities), the autoantibodies bind to the red blood cells causing them to agglutinate. As the autoantibodies are strong complement activators, complement (C3b) also binds the red blood cells.<sup>1,2,4</sup>

When the cells return to body temperature (central circulation), the autoantibody unbinds allowing cells to separate and leaves C3b behind remaining on the red blood cell. This leads to complement-mediated hemolysis by macrophages in the liver (extravascular hemolysis).<sup>1,2,4</sup>

Can cause acrocyanosis and hemolysis is self-limiting.<sup>5</sup>

### Laboratory Findings for CAD:<sup>1,2,4</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Normal PLT: Normal RETIC: Increased MCV, MCH, MCHC: Falsely increased (due to cold-agglutination)	<b>PBS:</b> Agglutination at room temperature (Not present if sample is heated to 37°C) Spherocytes Normohromic Normocytic +/- nRBCs	<b>BM:</b> Erythroid hyperplasia
<b>Other Tests:</b> DAT: Positive for C3b, but negative for IgG or IgM  IAT: Reactive at < 25°C Screen Cells: Positive Autocontrol: Positive  Cord cells: Negative (If autoanti-I, otherwise positive if autoanti-i)  Bilirubin: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased Hemoglobinemia Hemoglobinuria (Acute) Hemosiderinuria (Chronic)		

## Paroxysmal Cold Hemoglobinuria (PCH)

### Associated Conditions:<sup>2,3</sup>

Can develop following viral infections or upper respiratory infections

**Affected age:** Primarily in children.<sup>2</sup>

**Antibody Specificity:** autoanti-P (IgG, polyclonal, binds optimally at 4-20°C, reactive at 37°C).<sup>1,4,5</sup>

## Pathophysiology:<sup>1,4,5</sup>

Attachment of autoanti-P to cells do not cause the cells to agglutinate but does result in an intravascular, complement-mediated hemolysis.

Autoanti-P is a biphasic antibody meaning that it activates only partial complement at cold temperatures (<37°C) and full complement at warmer temperatures (37°C) leading to hemolysis.

## Laboratory Findings for PCH:<sup>2-4</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> WBC: Normal Hb: Decreased RETIC: Increased	<b>PBS:</b> Spherocytes Polychromasia +/- nRBCs Some Schistocytes	<b>Other Tests:</b> DAT: Positive for C3d only LD: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased Hemoglobinemia Hemoglobinuria Donath-Landsteiner Test is Positive: Control incubated at 37°C: Hemolysis absent Patient sample incubated at 37°C only: Hemolysis absent Patient sample incubated at 4°C and 37°C: Hemolysis present
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**Table 2. Comparative Table of Warm and Cold Immune-Related Hemolytic Anemias**

	WAIHA	CAD	PCH
<b>Age (years old)</b>	>40	>50	Children (After viral infection)
<b>Antibody Class</b>	IgG	IgM	IgG
<b>Antibody Specificity</b>	Anti-Rh (most-often)	Anti-I, Anti-i	Anti-P
<b>Optimal Binding Temperature</b>	37°C	4°C	<20°C
<b>DAT Reactivity</b>	IgG	IgG, C3d	C3d
<b>Donath-Landsteiner Test</b>	N/A	Negative	Positive
<b>Type of Hemolysis</b>	Extravascular	Extravascular	Intravascular

# Drug-Induced Immune Hemolytic Anemia

Immune hemolytic anemias can also be induced when certain drugs are administered into the body. There are four mechanisms in which they are able to do this:

## **1. Autoantibody Induction<sup>1,4,6</sup>**

Most commonly caused by methyldopa.

Mechanism mimics that found in warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia. The drug induces the production of warm-reactive antibodies against the red blood cell membrane (self-antigens). Antibodies bind at 37°C and affected red cells are removed by the spleen through extravascular hemolysis.

## **2. Drug Adsorption (Hapten)<sup>1,4,6</sup>**

Most commonly caused by penicillins.

The drug is non-specifically adsorbed onto the red blood cells and antibodies are produced against the drug itself. As red blood cell pass through the spleen, they are removed by macrophages.

## **3. Immune Complex Formation (Innocent Bystander)<sup>1,4,6</sup>**

Most commonly caused by quinidine.

An IgG or IgM antibody is produced against the drug when it loosely binds to the red blood cells (antibody-drug immune complex). The immune complex induces the activation of complement, leading to the formation of membrane attack complexes and intravascular hemolysis.

## **4. Membrane Modification<sup>1,6</sup>**

Most commonly caused by cephalosporins.

Drug modifies the red blood cell membrane causing it to become “sticky”. This results in red blood cells becoming coated with many plasma proteins. No hemolysis occurs, but DAT testing will be positive.

**Table 3. Comparison of Mechanisms Leading to Drug-Related Immune Hemolytic Anemia**

	<b>Autoantibody Induction</b>	<b>Drug Adsorption</b>	<b>Immune Complex</b>	<b>Membrane Modification</b>
<b>Drug Example</b>	Methyldopa	Penicillins	Quinidine	Cephalosporins
<b>Antibody Class</b>	IgG	IgG	IgG or IgM	N/A, due to plasma proteins
<b>DAT</b>	IgG Positive C3 Negative	IgG Positive C3 Negative	C3 Positive IgG Variable	Positive, due to plasma proteins
<b>Eluate</b>	Positive	Usually Negative	Usually Negative	Usually Negative
<b>Type of Hemolysis</b>	Extravascular	Extravascular	Intravascular	No hemolysis

## Alloimmune Hemolytic Anemias

Hemolytic anemias can also occur with there is sensitization of red blood cells due previous exposure to another individual's red blood cells.

### 1. Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions<sup>7</sup>

Hemolytic transfusion reactions occur when there is an incompatibility between the patient's blood (contain alloantibodies) and the transfused cells. Alloantibodies present in the patient's blood binds the

antigens on the transfused cells and this results in hemolysis. Transfusion reactions are classified as being acute or delayed.

**Table 4. Comparison of Acute and Delayed Transfusion Reactions.**

	Acute	Delayed
<b>Time</b>	Immediate; minutes to hours	Days to weeks
<b>Related Blood Groups</b>	ABO	Other non-ABO blood groups
<b>Symptoms</b>	Fever, chills, back pain, pain at infusion site, difficulty breathing, hypotension, urticaria, tachycardia	Usually show no clinical symptoms but may develop a fever
<b>Type of Hemolysis</b>	Intravascular	Extravascular
<b>DAT</b>	Negative (if all transfused cells have all been hemolyzed)	Positive for IgG and/or C3d (Can be negative depending on time of sample collection)
<b>Other Laboratory Findings</b>	Hemoglobinemia Hb: Decreased Bilirubin: Increased after a few days Haptoglobin: Decreased	Hemoglobinuria Hb: Variable Bilirubin: Increased Eluate is positive for offending antibody.

## 2. Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn (HDFN)

Hemolysis that occurs in the fetus or newborn due to incompatibility between the mother's alloantibodies and the fetus's/newborn's blood groups.

Mother's immune system can become sensitized and produce alloantibodies against the blood group antigens that she lacks during a previous pregnancy or transfusion. If the fetus/newborn contains the blood group antigens that the mother has alloantibodies against, HDFN can develop. During pregnancy, alloantibodies are able to pass through the placenta and bind to the red blood cells in the fetus/newborn resulting in hemolysis of the fetal red blood cells.<sup>4,6</sup>

Newborns appear jaundiced and have high levels of bilirubin at birth.<sup>4,7</sup> The peripheral blood smear will show increased spherocytes, polychromasia, and increased nucleated red blood cells (normoblastemia).

Alloantibodies can be produced against Rh, ABO, and other blood groups.<sup>7</sup>

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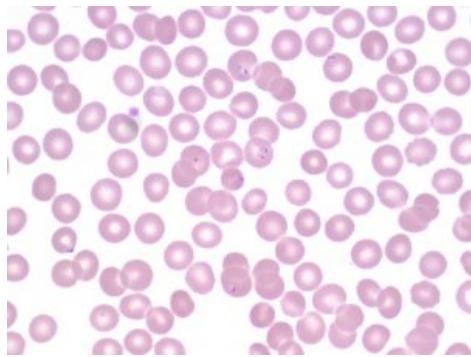
## References:

1. Smith LA. Hemolytic anemia: immune anemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 348-71.
2. Barcellini W, Fattizzo B. Clinical Applications of Hemolytic Markers in the Differential Diagnosis and Management of Hemolytic Anemia. *Dis Markers* [Internet]. 2015 Dec 27 [cited 2018 Jun 26];2015:635670. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4706896/>
3. Berentsen S. Role of complement in autoimmune hemolytic anemia. *Transfus Med Hemotherapy* [Internet]. 2015 Sep 7 [cited 2018 Jun 27];42(5):303-10. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4678321/>
4. Przekop KA. Extrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction - immune causes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 411-25.
5. Packman CH. The clinical pictures of autoimmune hemolytic anemia. *Transfus Med Hemotherapy* [Internet]. 2015 Sep 11 [cited 2018 Jun 26];42(5):317-24. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4678314/>
6. Harmening DM, Yang D, Zerinder H. Hemolytic anemias: extracorporeal defects. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 250-79).
7. Landis-Piwowar K, Landis J, Keila P. The complete blood count and peripheral blood smear evaluation. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 154-77.

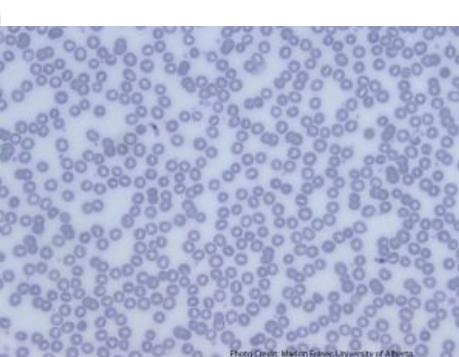
# Infectious Agents

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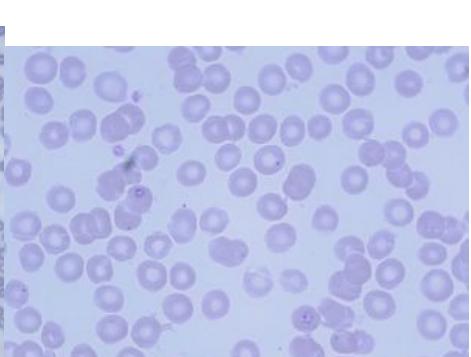
## Malarial Infection



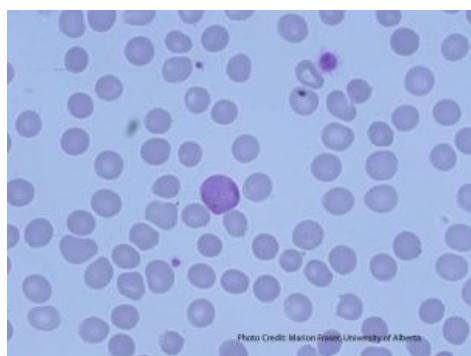
An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating intra-cellular malarial rings (*Plasmodium falciparum*) inside red blood cells. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34J0B> C8J



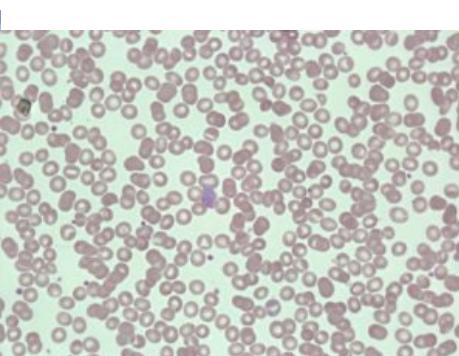
An image from a peripheral blood smear showing two crescent-shaped gametocytes, characteristic of *Plasmodium falciparum*. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3BG2HS02>



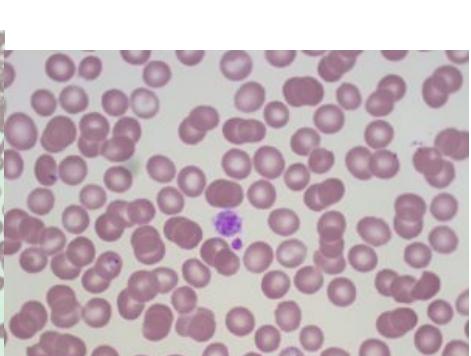
An image from a peripheral blood smear showing ring forms of *Plasmodium ovale* in oval-shaped red blood cells. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3W08WX95>



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating the gametocyte of *Plasmodium vivax*. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating malaria at the gametocyte stage in the center. 60X oil



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing signet ring forms of malaria and a

<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3R78645T>

immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3J39G6B>

large platelet in the center.  
From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MG7GB25>

### **Causative Agent:<sup>1,2</sup>**

Malaria is transmitted by the female Anopheles mosquito.

There are five species of malaria:

*Plasmodium falciparum* – Most severe

*Plasmodium vivax* – Most common

*Plasmodium ovale* – Less common

*Plasmodium malariae* – Less common

*Plasmodium knowlesi*

### **Geographic Distribution:<sup>1</sup>**

Tropical and subtropical areas

### **Clinical Features:<sup>1,2</sup>**

Fever, headache, chills, sweating, splenomegaly. Patients can show cyclical patterns of fever and chills being present then absent. In severe malaria, jaundice, shock, bleeding, seizures, or coma may occur. Thrombocytopenia commonly occurs with malarial infections, and may lead to bleeding tendencies.

### **Hemolysis is mostly intravascular and occurs through a number of different mechanisms.<sup>1,2</sup>**

1. Direct damage to the red blood cells

2. Immune activation of macrophage activity (Increased extravascular hemolysis)
3. Release of cytokines that inhibit erythropoiesis (inhibit erythropoietin)
4. Increased oxidative stress on RBCs during infection
5. Induction of apoptosis in red blood cell precursors

## Laboratory Results for Malarial Infections:<sup>1,2</sup>

---

**CBC:**

RBC: Decreased  
WBC: Normal to Slightly Increased (neutropenia during chills)  
PLT: Decreased  
Hct: Decreased  
RETIC: Decreased

**PBS:**

Normochromic  
Normocytic  
Intracellular Malarial parasite forms (forms and stages of development seen differ by species)

**BM:**

Erythroid Hypoplasia

**Other Tests:**

Giemsa stain  
Thin Smears: Morphology and parasitemia calculation  
Thick Smears: Presence or absence of malaria  
Immunoassays  
Flow Cytometry  
Molecular Testing (PCR)

---

**Note:** See "Malaria" under RBC inclusions for additional information.

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## Babesiosis

### Causative agents:<sup>1,3</sup>

Babesia microti is carried by the Ixodes scapularis ticks. Babesia can also be transmitted by blood transfusions.

### Geographical Distribution:<sup>3</sup>

Northeast and Midwest United States

### Clinical Features:<sup>3</sup>

Clinical symptoms include: flu-like symptoms ranging from fever, headache, anorexia, fatigue. Some patients may be asymptomatic. Hepatosplenomegaly may or may not be present.

### Laboratory Results for Babesiosis:<sup>1,3</sup>

CBC:	PBS:	Other Tests:
WBC: Decreased	RBCs shows tetrads of merozoites (Maltese cross)	Hemoglobinuria
PLT: Decreased		Proteinuria
Hb: Decreased		Immunoassays
RETIC: Increased		Molecular testing (PCR)

---

**Note:** See “Babesia” under Abnormal RBC inclusions for additional information.

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## Clostridial Sepsis

### Causative agent:<sup>1,3</sup>

*Clostridium perfringens* is an anaerobic, gram-positive spore-forming bacilli that can infect tissues after events involving trauma to the body. The bacteria releases enzymes and toxins that damage the surrounding tissue and can allow the bacteria to reach the bloodstream.

Blood infection is often fatal and can lead to massive hemolysis and the activation of DIC.

### Mechanism of RBC Destruction:<sup>1,3</sup>

Hemolysis by *C. perfringens* is intravascular and can occur due to direct effects of alpha-toxin that it releases on the red blood cell membrane. Cell becomes spherical and subject to osmotic lysis. Significant intravascular hemolysis ensues, leading to a marked decrease in hematocrit, and dark red/brown plasma and urine.

### Laboratory Results for Clostridia Infections:<sup>1,3</sup>

**CBC:**  
RBC: Decreased  
PLT: Decreased  
Hct: Very Decreased

**PBS:**  
Spherocytes  
Microcytes  
Ghost cells  
Toxic changes with a left shift  
+/- ingested bacteria within neutrophils

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**Other Tests:**  
Hemoglobinemia  
Hemoglobinuria

## References:

1. Harmening DM, Yang D, Zerinder H. Hemolytic anemias: extracorporeal defects. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 250-79).
2. Akinosoglou KS, Solomou EE, Gogos CA. Malaria: a haematological disease. *Hematology [Internet]*. 2012 Mar 1 [cited 2018 Jul 9];17(2):106-14. Available from: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1179/102453312X13221316477336>
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IX

# RED BLOOD CELLS: INTRINSIC DEFECTS OF THE RBC MEMBRANE CAUSING HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA

# 48

# Heredity Spherocytosis

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An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=547>

*Images of hereditary spherocytosis peripheral blood smears demonstrating marked spherocytosis and polychromasia. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34B2XK9F>*

*Image 2: 50 x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HM53096>*

## Note:

The hereditary condition results in the formation of spherocytes with a decreased life span, decreased deformability, and a reduced surface-to-volume ratio causing increased osmotic fragility.<sup>1</sup>

## Mutation:

Genetic mutations in the vertical protein linkages between the membrane and cytoskeleton: α-spectrin, β-spectrin, band 3, ankyrin, and protein 4.2.<sup>1-4</sup> Results in loss of unsupported membrane overtime, and spherocyte formation.

## Inheritance:<sup>1,3</sup>

Autosomal dominant or recessive depending on which mutations are inherited.

## Clinical Features:<sup>1,3,4</sup>

Jaundice

Fatigue

Pallor

Splenomegaly

Iron Overload

Extramedullary erythropoiesis

## Laboratory Results:<sup>1-3</sup>

### **CBC:**

Hb: Decreased  
MCV: Decreased to Normal  
MCH: Normal to Increased  
MCHC: Increased (>360 g/L)  
RETIC: Increased  
RDW: Increased

### **PBS:**

Spherocytes (Variable amounts)  
Polychromasia  
Increased inclusions (HJ bodies, pappenheimer bodies)  
+/- NRBCs

### **BM:**

M:E Ratio: Decreased  
Erythroid Hyperplasia

### **Other Tests:**

Osmotic Fragility: Increased  
Eosin -5'-maleimide Binding Test: Decreased fluorescence  
DAT: Negative (AIHA with spherocytes are DAT positive)

Markers of EVH:

Bilirubin: Increased  
LD: Increased  
Urobilinogen: Increased

## References:

1. Gallagher PG. Abnormalities of the erythrocyte membrane. *Pediatr Clin North Am* [Internet]. 2013 Dec 15 [cited 2018 Jun 26];60(6):1349-62. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4155395/>
2. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.
3. Andolfo I, Russo R, Gambale A, Iolascon A. New insights on hereditary erythrocyte membrane defects. *Haematologica* [Internet]. 2016 Nov 22 [cited 2018 Jun 26];101(11):1284-94. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5394881/>
4. Da Costa L, Galimand J, Fenneteau O, Mohandas N. Hereditary spherocytosis, elliptocytosis, and other red cell membrane disorders. *Blood Rev* [Internet]. 2013[cited 2018 Jul 24];27(4):167-78. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0268960X13000192>

# 49

# Hereditary Elliptocytosis & Related Variants

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## Hereditary Elliptocytosis

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=557>

Images of hereditary elliptocytosis peripheral blood smears showing numerous elliptocytes. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.

Image 1: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3F18SW6B>

Image 2: 100x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JS9HQ0S>

Hereditary elliptocytosis encompasses group of hereditary conditions that result in the formation of elliptocytes with a decreased erythrocyte lifespan.<sup>1</sup> Variants of hereditary elliptocytosis include Hereditary pyropoikilocytosis and Southeast Asian Ovalocytosis.

### Mutation:

Genetic mutations involving the horizontal protein linkages between the membrane and cytoskeleton: α-spectrin, β-spectrin, protein 4.1, glycophorin C).<sup>2-4</sup> These mutations result in a decreased red blood cell lifespan and increased susceptibility to hemolysis (primarily extravascular). Hemolysis is often mild.

**Inheritance:**<sup>1,3,4</sup>

Autosomal dominant

**Clinical Features:**

Patients are usually asymptomatic and discovery of hereditary elliptocytosis is often incidental.<sup>1,3</sup>

**Laboratory Results for Hereditary Elliptocytosis:**<sup>1,5</sup>

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<b>CBC:</b> MCV: Normal to Increased MCH, MCHC: Normal	<b>PBS:</b> Elliptocytes (Variable amounts) During hemolytic episodes may see: Normocytic, normochromic anemia Increased Polychromasia	<b>Other Tests:</b> Osmotic Fragility: Normal Thermal Stability: Decreased PCR Hyperbilirubinemia LDH: Increased
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## Hereditary Pyropoikilocytosis (HPP)

A rare variant of hereditary elliptocytosis that presents with severe hemolytic anemia.<sup>4,5</sup>

**Inheritance:**<sup>2,4</sup>

Autosomal recessive

**Mutation:**<sup>2,4</sup>

Defects in spectrin that results in red blood cell fragmentation.

### Laboratory Findings for HPP:<sup>2,4,5</sup>

**CBC:**  
RBC: Decreased  
Hb: Decreased  
MCV: Always decreased  
MCHC: Increased

**PBS:**  
Microspherocytes  
Schistocytes  
Elliptocytes

**Other Tests:**  
Osmotic Fragility: Increased  
Thermal Sensitivity: Increased  
Eosin -5'-maleimide Binding Test:  
Decreased fluorescence

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## Southeast Asian Ovalocytosis (SAO)

A variant of hereditary elliptocytosis that and clinical symptoms are mainly asymptomatic. Ovalocytes are large and may show one or more transverse bars in the cytoplasm of the cell. These ovalocytes are much more rigid than normal red blood cells.<sup>5</sup> Patients are usually asymptomatic.<sup>2</sup>

### Inheritance:<sup>2-4</sup>

Autosomal dominant

### Mutation:<sup>2,3</sup>

Mutation in the Band 3 protein.

### Laboratory Findings for SAO:<sup>5</sup>

PBS: Elliptocytes (May show one or more transverse bars)

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## References:

1. Gallagher PG. Abnormalities of the erythrocyte membrane. *Pediatr Clin North Am* [Internet]. 2013 Dec 15 [cited 2018 Jun 26];60(6):1349-62. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4155395/>
2. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.
3. Da Costa L, Galimand J, Fenneteau O, Mohandas N. Hereditary spherocytosis, elliptocytosis, and other red cell membrane disorders. *Blood Rev* [Internet]. 2013[cited 2018 Jul 24];27(4):167-78. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0268960X13000192>
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5. Coetzer T, Zail S. Hereditary defects of the red cell membrane. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 176-95).

# 50 Hereditary Stomatocytosis Syndromes

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## Overhydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis

Condition results in cells with altered intracellular concentrations of sodium (Na+) and potassium (K+) ions. There is an increased permeability of K+ into the cell and increased permeability of Na+ out of the cell. This results in cells with increased volume (cells are overhydrated), a decreased surface-to-volume ratio, and decreased cytoplasm viscosity.<sup>1-3</sup>

### **Mutation:**<sup>1,3</sup>

Heredity defect leading to alterations in the permeability of the red blood cell membrane.

### **Inheritance:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Autosomal dominant (Severe hemolysis may indicate a autosomal recessive inheritance)

### **Laboratory Results:**<sup>1-3</sup>

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<b>CBC:</b> MCV: Increased MCHC: Decreased	<b>PBS:</b> Macrococytes Stomatocytes	<b>Other Tests:</b> Osmotic Fragility: Increased
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# Dehydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (Hereditary Xerocytosis)

Defects lead to an increased movement of K<sup>+</sup> out of the cell and results in the dehydration of cell. Unlike Stomatocytes, cells have an increased surface-to-volume ratio.<sup>2</sup>

## Inheritance:<sup>2-4</sup>

Autosomal dominant

## Laboratory Results:<sup>1-4</sup>

CBC:	PBS:	Other Tests:
MCV: Increased MCHC: Increased	Stomatocytes Target cells Echinocytes Macrocytes RBCs with Hb concentrated at the periphery of the cell	Osmotic Fragility: Increased

## References:

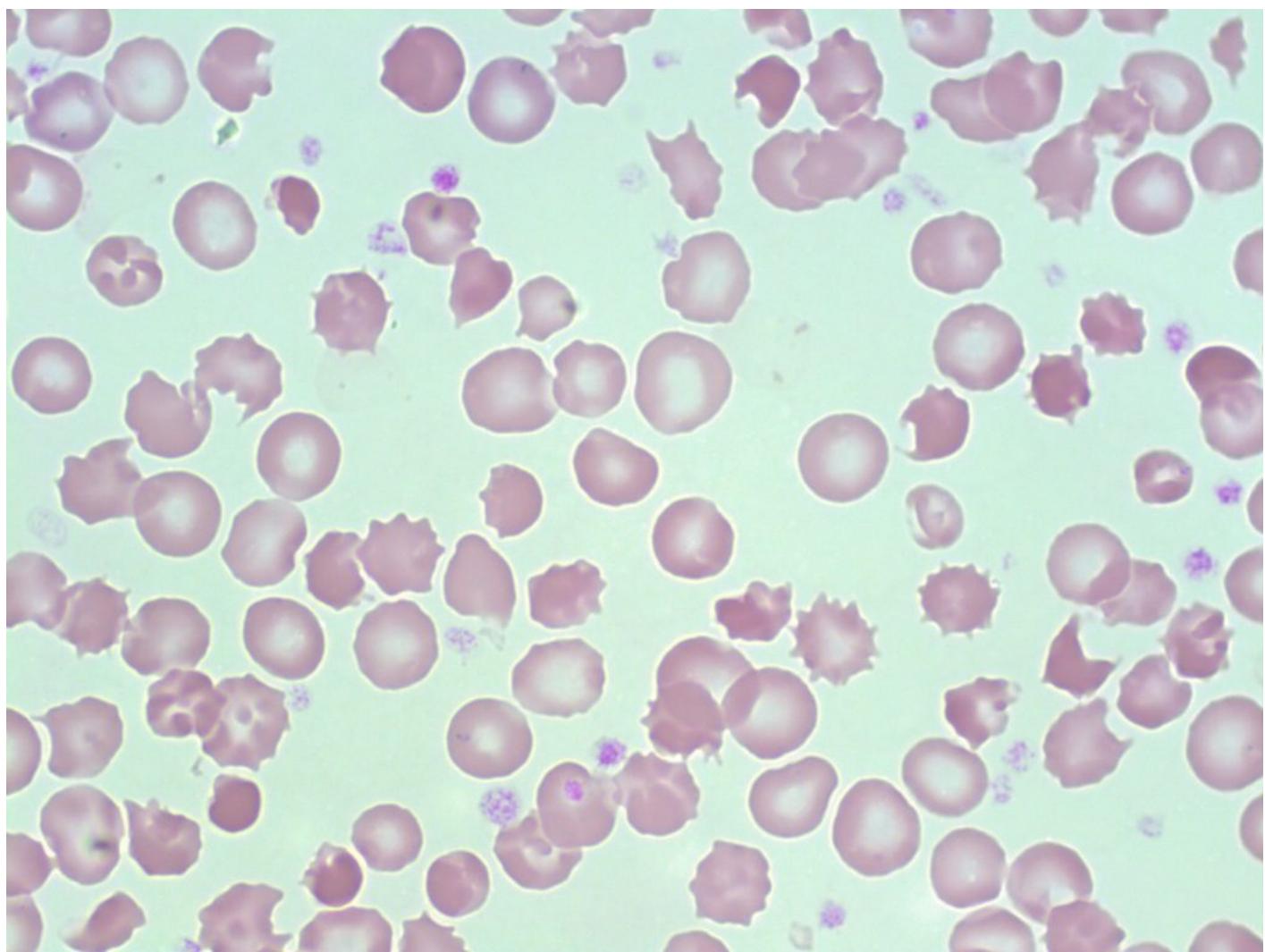
1. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.
2. Coetzer T, Zail S. Hereditary defects of the red cell membrane. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 176-95).
3. Da Costa L, Galimand J, Fenneteau O, Mohandas N. Hereditary spherocytosis, elliptocytosis, and other red cell membrane disorders. *Blood Rev* [Internet]. 2013[cited 2018 Jul 24];27(4):167-78. Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0268960X13000192>
4. Andolfo I, Russo R, Gambale A, Iolascon A. New insights on hereditary erythrocyte membrane defects. *Haematologica* [Internet]. 2016 Nov 22 [cited 2018 Jun 26];101(11):1284-94. Available from:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5394881/>

# 51

## Hereditary Acanthocytosis (Abetalipoproteinemia)

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An image from a peripheral blood smear showing acanthocytes and other poikilocytosis. Hereditary acanthocytosis would typically show acanthocytes as the main red blood cell abnormality. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R31J97P8T>

**Mutation:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) gene mutation that results in a lack of apolipoprotein B. An increase in sphingomyelin concentration in the RBC membrane leads to increased membrane rigidity and acanthocyte formation.

**Inheritance:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Autosomal recessive

**Laboratory Results:**<sup>1,2</sup>

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**CBC:**

MCV: Normal  
MCH: Normal  
MCHC: Normal  
RETIC: Normal to increased

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**PBS:**

Acanthocytes

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**Hereditary Acanthocytosis References:**

1. Cochran-Black D. Hemolytic anemia: membrane defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 317-33.
2. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.

## 52

# Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH)

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Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria is an acquired clonal disorder that starts at the stem cell level. Cells produced become susceptible and are destroyed by chronic complement-mediated hemolysis.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Cause(s):<sup>1,2</sup>**

Deficiency in glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchor proteins (GPIs). Normally, CD55 and CD59 act as complement regulators to prevent autologous complement-mediated hemolysis. Without GPIs, cells lack CD55 and CD59 and undergo spontaneous intravascular hemolysis.

Hemolytic episodes (Paroxysms) can be exacerbated by stressors such as inflammation or infections.

**Complications:<sup>2</sup>**

Hemolytic Anemia

Bone Marrow Failure

Thrombophilia

**Laboratory Results for PNH:<sup>1,3,4</sup>**

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Decreased PLT: Decreased Hb: Decreased MCV: Increased RETIC: Increased	<b>PBS:</b> May see: -nRBCs -Polychromasia  If Iron Deficiency Present: -Hypochromic -Microcytic  If Folate Deficiency Present: -Oval Macrocytes  If BM Failure Present: -Pancytopenia	<b>BM:</b> If BM Failure: -Impaired hematopoiesis -Hypocellular  If not BM Failure, may be: -Normo to hypercellular -Erythroid hyperplasia  Iron stores: Decreased, or absent <b>Note:</b> Any dysplastic findings may be indicative of MDS.
<b>Iron Studies:</b> Same as iron deficiency anemia if patient becomes iron deficient.	<b>Other Tests:</b> Sucrose Hemolysis Test: Positive for hemolysis Ham's (Acidified Serum Lysis) Test: Positive Flow cytometry (for CD55 and CD59) DAT: Negative Osmotic Fragility: Normal	<b>Tests for IVH:</b> Indirect bilirubin: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased LD: Increased Hemoglobinemia Hemoglobinuria Hemosiderinuria

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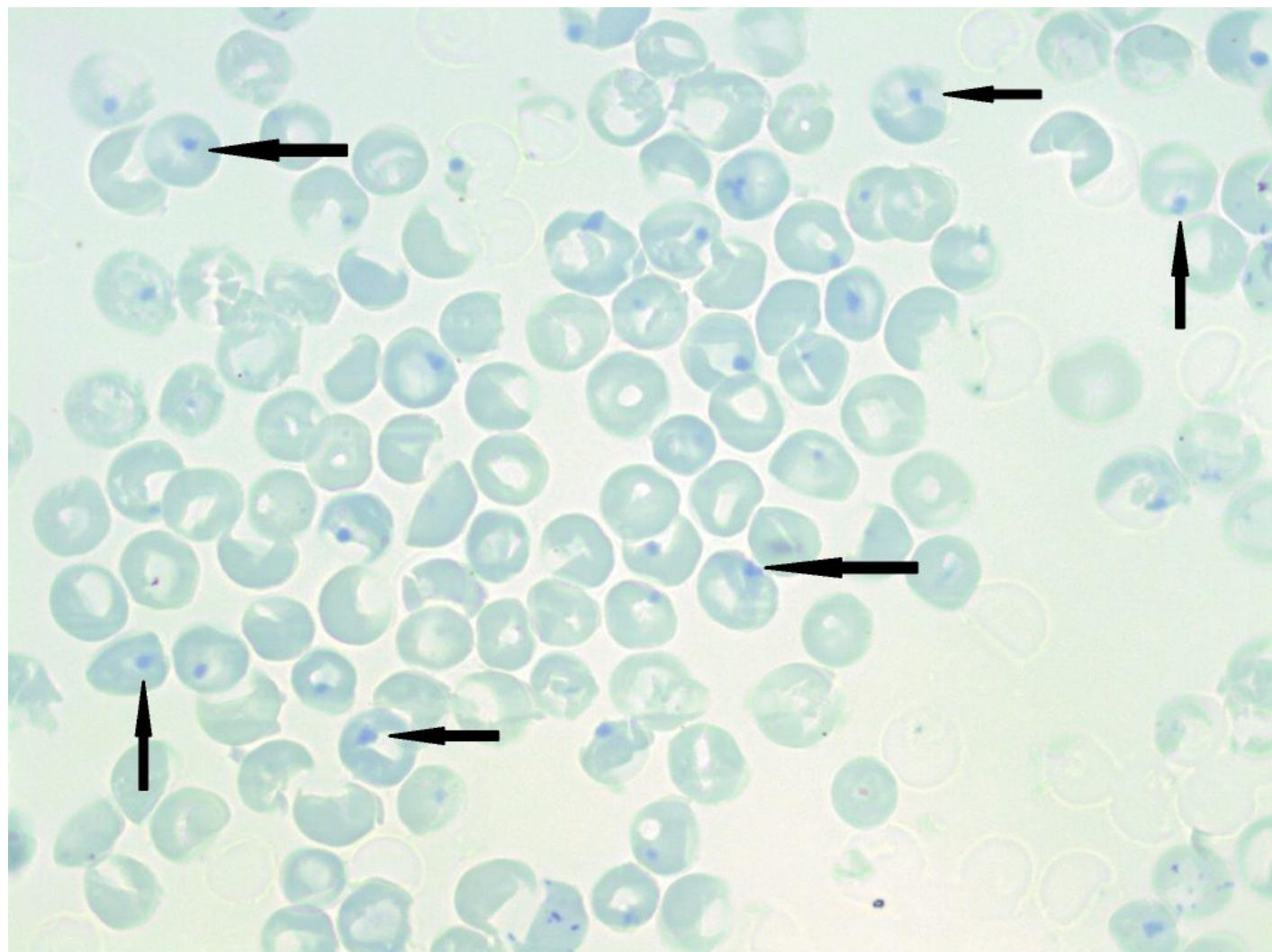
## References:

1. DeZern AE, Brodsky RA. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria. A Complement-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia. *Hematol Oncol Clin North Am [Internet]*. 2015 Jun 7 [cited 2018 Jun 26];29(3):479-94. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4695989/>
2. Mastellos DC, Ricklin D, Yancopoulou D, Risitano A, Lambris JD. Complement in paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria: Exploiting our current knowledge to improve the treatment landscape. *Expert Rev Hematol [Internet]*. 2014 Oct 2 [cited 2018 Jun 26];7(5):583-98. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4383744/>
3. Cochran-Black D. Hemolytic anemia: membrane defects. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 317-33.
4. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.

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# Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency

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A peripheral blood smear stained with a supravital stain demonstrating numerous heinz bodies (indicated by arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R35718396>

**Normal G6PD Function: Hexose Monophosphate (HMP) Shunt and Oxidative Damage<sup>1,2</sup>**

The HMP Shunt describes the glycolytic pathway where glucose is transferred to and catabolized in the cell to produce ATP and maintain sustainable amounts of reduced glutathione (GSH). GSH acts to protect the red blood cell from oxidative damage by reducing oxidative molecules (Peroxides and free oxygen radicals) and becoming oxidized itself.

In the HMP shunt, NADPH is generated by G6PD from NADP which then acts to regenerate reduced glutathione from its oxidized state to allow continued protection from oxidative damage. A lack of G6PD results in increased red blood cell destruction.

G6PD activity is highest in younger cells (i.e. reticulocytes) compared to that of older and more mature red blood cells.<sup>1</sup>

### **Mutation:**<sup>2</sup>

G6PD gene mutation results in decreased G6PD levels.

### **Inheritance:**<sup>1</sup>

X-linked

### **Complications:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Acute hemolytic Anemia

Neonatal Hyperbilirubinemia

Chronic Nonspherocytic Hemolytic Anemia

### **Causes of Hemolytic Episodes:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Exposure to oxidative agents:

-Drugs (e.g. antimalarials, sulfonamides)

-Infections

-Fava Beans (Favism)

### **Notes:**

G6PD deficiency is commonly associated with bite and blister cells. Oxidized hemoglobins become denatured and form heinz bodies within the red blood cells. These heinz bodies can be removed by splenic macrophages through a “pitting” mechanism, which results in the formation of bite and blister cells.<sup>1</sup>

It has been suggested that G6PD deficiency acts as a protective mechanism from malaria as the prevalence of G6PD deficiency coincides with that of malaria.<sup>1</sup>

### **Laboratory Results for G6PD Deficiency:<sup>1</sup>**

<b>CBC:</b>	<b>PBS:</b>	<b>Other Tests:</b>
WBC: Increased PLT: Normal Hb: Decreased MCHC: Increased RETIC: Increased	Bite and Blister Cells Polychromasia Occasional spherocytes Heinz bodies (Supravitral staining)	Dye Reduction Test: No colour change G6PD Assay: Decreased activity DAT: Negative  Hemolysis Markers: Indirect Bilirubin: Increased LDH: Increased Haptoglobin: Decreased Hemoglobinemia Hemoglobinuria

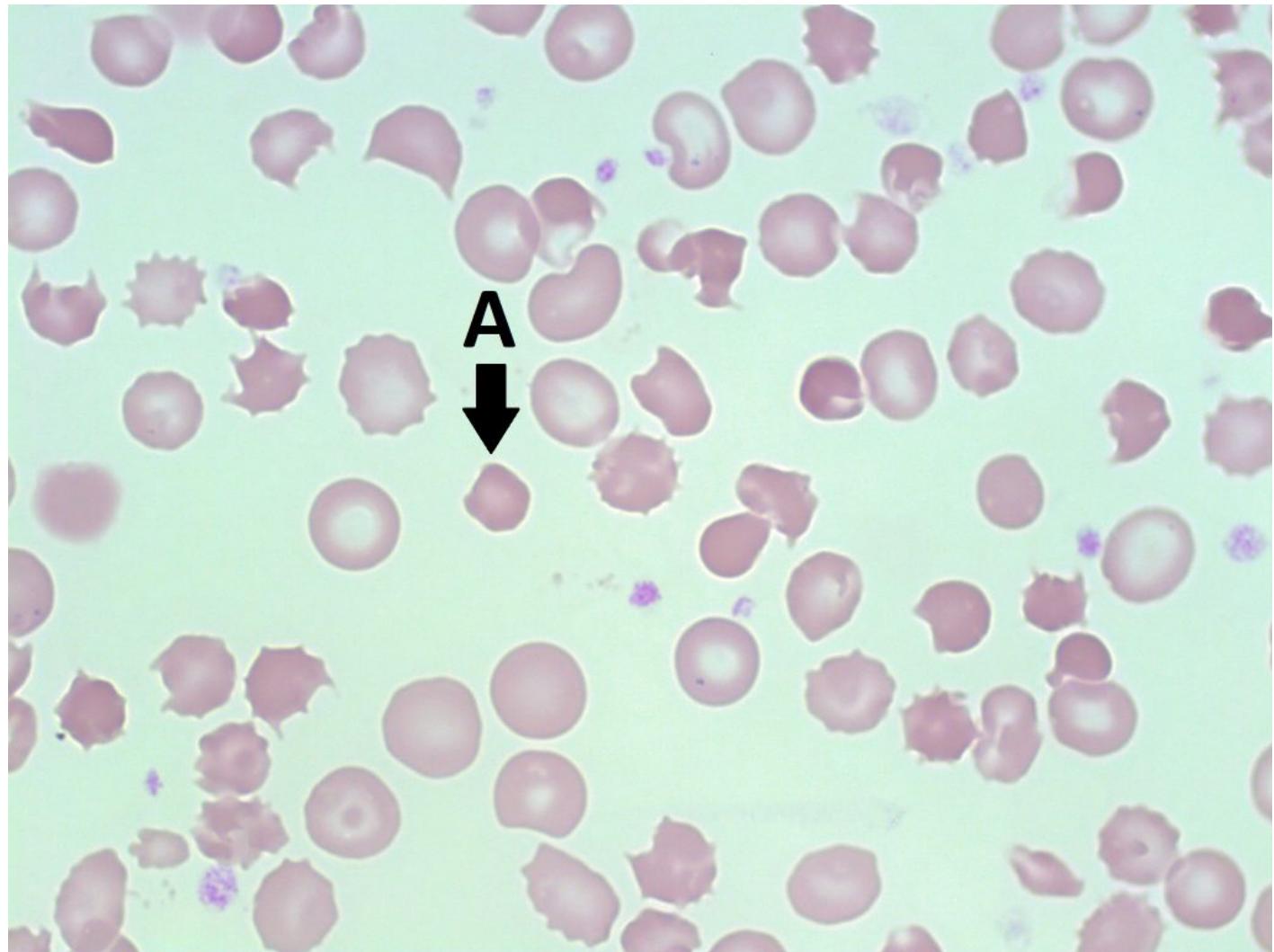
## **References:**

1. Lake M, Bessmer D. Hemolytic anemia: enzyme deficiencies. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 334-47.
2. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.

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# Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



A peripheral blood smear with a pyknocyte\* shown by the arrow (A). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3VX06J4H>

## Normal PK Function:

Pyruvate Kinase catalyzes the conversion of phosphoenolpyruvate to pyruvate which results in the production of ATP from ADP. A lack of pyruvate kinase results in the ability of cells to maintain proper

cell shape, normal lifespan, and low levels of 2,3-PBG.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Mutation:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Mutations in the PKLR gene leading to decreased levels of pyruvate kinase.

**Inheritance:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Autosomal recessive

**Complications:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Chronic hemolytic anemia

Splenomegaly

Jaundice

Gallstones

**Notes:**<sup>1</sup>

WBCs contain more pyruvate kinase than RBCs.

**Laboratory Results for PK Deficiency:**<sup>1</sup>

---

**CBC:**  
Hb: Decreased  
RETIC: Increased

**PBS:**  
Normocytic  
Normochromic  
Echinocytes  
Pyknocytes\*  
Post-splenectomy shows varying degrees of anisocytosis and poikilocytosis

**Other Tests:**  
Osmotic Fragility: Normal  
Pyruvate Kinase Assay: Decreased  
Indirect bilirubin: Increased  
LDH: Increased  
Haptoglobin: Decreased or absent

\*Note: The term "pyknocyte" is not universally used. It refers to a small, dehydrated, dark-colored RBC.

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## References:

1. Lake M, Bessmer D. Hemolytic anemia: enzyme deficiencies. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 334-47.
2. Keohane EM. Intrinsic defects leading to increased erythrocyte destruction. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 367-93.

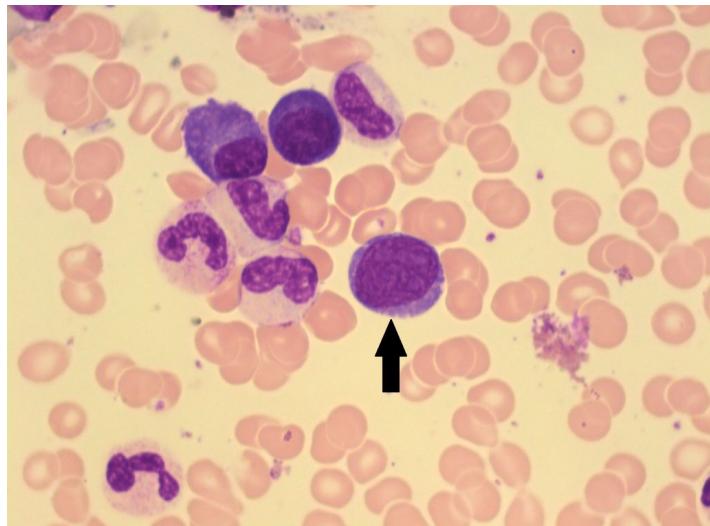
X

# WHITE BLOOD CELLS AND PLATELETS: NORMAL MORPHOLOGY

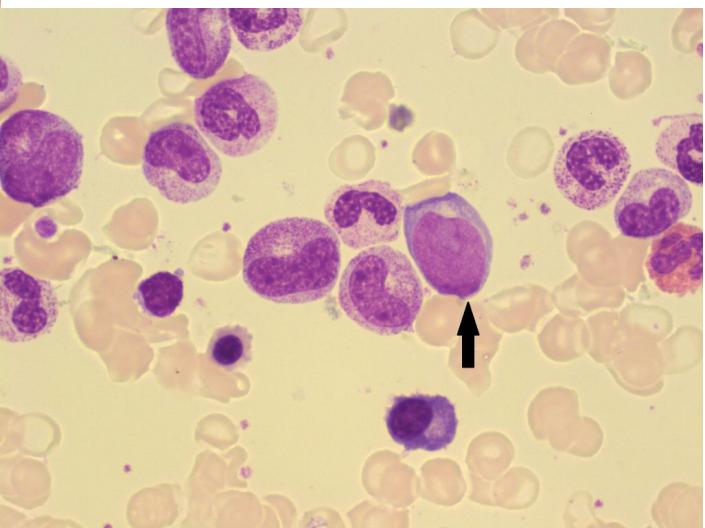
# Granulocytes and Granulocyte Maturation

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO

## Myeloblast/Blast



An image from a bone marrow smear with a blast (indicated with an arrow). 100x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JM23X5J>



An image from a bone marrow smear with a blast (indicated with an arrow). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JM23X5J>

**Notes:** Earliest distinguishable and recognizable stage of granulocyte maturation.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 4:1<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** 1-5<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1,3</sup>

Round to oval

Central or eccentrically located

Loose, open, evenly stained, reddish-purple, chromatin

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Dark to light basophilia

May contain granules (up to 20)

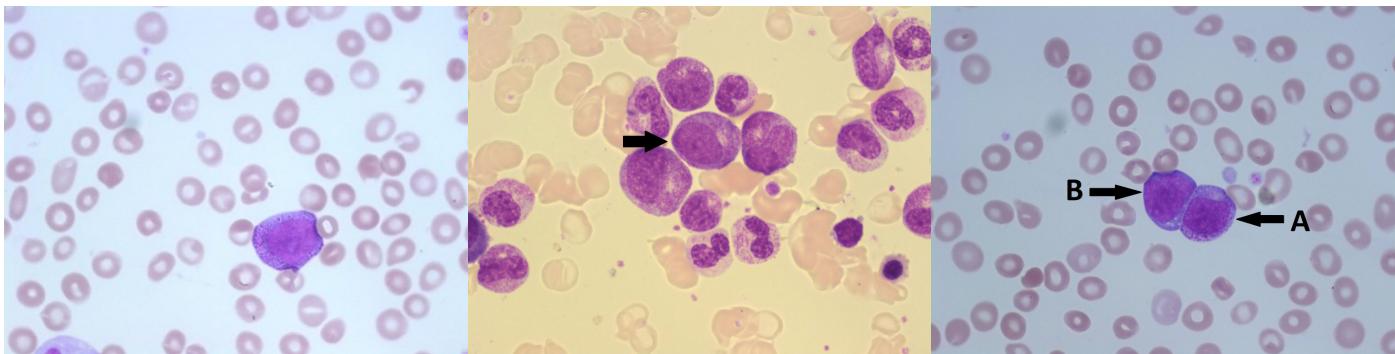
Golgi may be seen (pale area next to the nucleus)

**Normal % in Bone Marrow:** 0-2%<sup>2</sup>

**Normal % in Peripheral Blood:** 0%<sup>2</sup>

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## Promyelocyte



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a promyelocyte. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3FQ9QM3R>

An image from a bone marrow smear showing a promyelocyte (indicated by the arrow) and other myeloid precursors. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3QJ78D45>

A peripheral blood smear demonstrating a promyelocyte (A) and a blast (B). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3NK36M47>

**Notes:** Presence of primary granules marks maturation at the promyelocyte stage.<sup>3</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 3:1<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** 1-3<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Round to oval

Central or eccentrically located

Reddish-blue chromatin

Fine and slightly coarser chromatin than a myeloblast

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>2</sup>

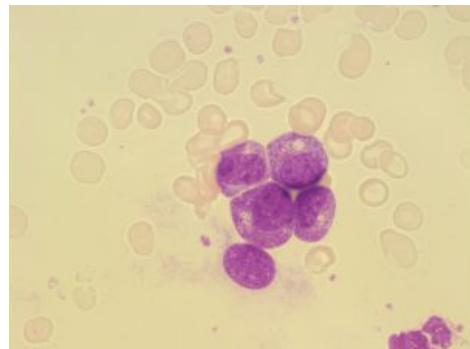
Lightly basophilic

Primary (fine, nonspecific) granules present (reddish-purple)

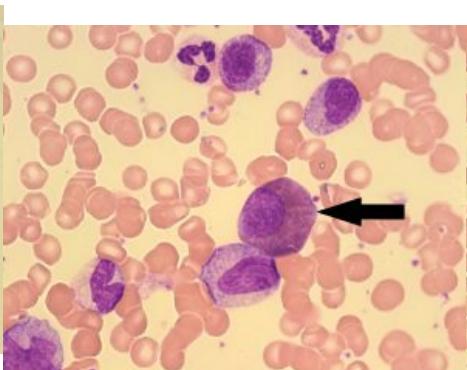
**Normal % in Bone Marrow:** 2-5%<sup>2</sup>

**Normal % in Peripheral Blood:** 0%<sup>2</sup>

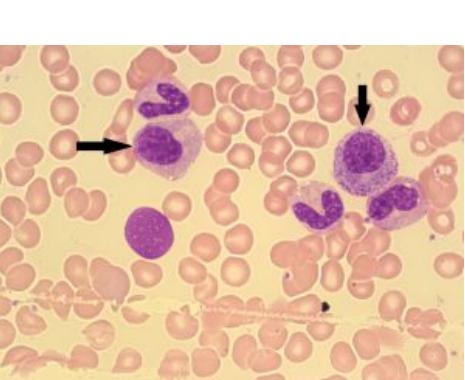
## Myelocyte



An image from a bone marrow smear showing four myelocytes (center) with both primary and secondary granules. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3V98069S>



An image from a bone marrow smearing showing a eosinophilic myelocyte (indicated by the arrow). A neutrophil myelocyte is below the eosinophil myelocyte. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R36M33K0X>



An image of a bone marrow smear with myeloid precursors. Myelocytes are indicated with arrows. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3BC3TC4P>

**Notes:** Presence of secondary granules marks maturation at the myelocyte stage. Primary granules may still be seen but decrease in number as the cell matures. Secondary granules become more predominant as the cell mature and are considered specific to a granulocytic lineage.<sup>1</sup>

The myelocyte is the last stage where the cell is able to undergo mitosis.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 2:1<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** Usually not visible<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>2,3</sup>

Round to oval

Eccentrically located

Reddish-purple, slightly clumped chromatin

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>2-5</sup>

Primary granules may be present in small amounts (Decrease in number as the cell matures).

Secondary (coarse, specific) granules present (Increase in number as the cell matures).

Granulocyte	Cytoplasm Colour	Secondary (Coarse, Specific) Granule Colour
Neutrophil	pink-tan	azurophilic (reddish-purple)
Eosinophil	cream coloured to colourless	eosinophilic (Pale to dark orange)
Basophil	pale blue	basophilic (dark purple-black)

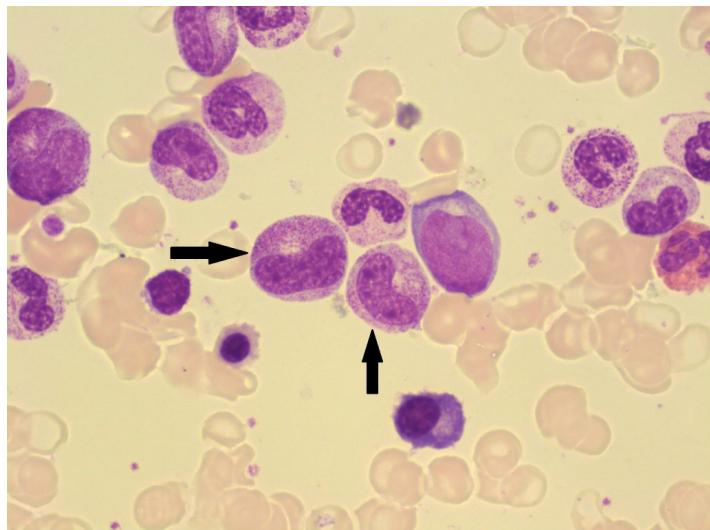
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**Normal % in the Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood:**<sup>2,4,5</sup>

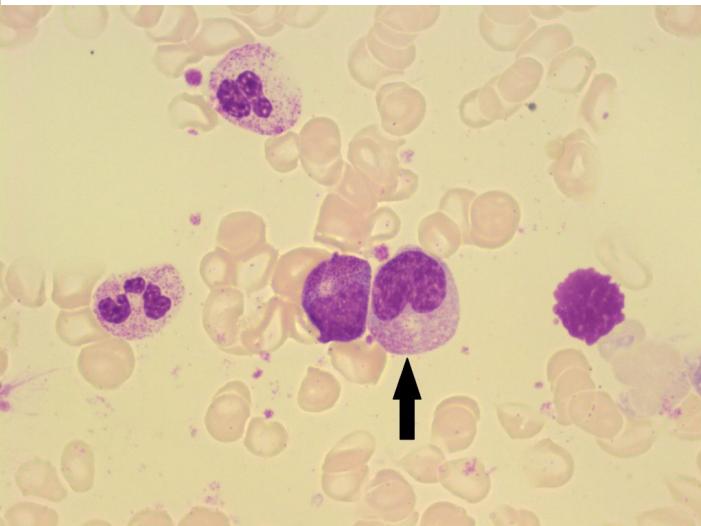
Granulocyte	% In Bone Marrow	% In Peripheral Blood
Neutrophil	5-19%	0%
Eosinophil	0-2%	0%
Basophil	0-1%	N/A

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# Metamyelocyte



An image from a bone marrow smear showing two metamyelocytes (indicated with arrows). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30863M9J>



An image from a bone marrow smear showing a metamyelocyte (indicated with an arrow). A myelocyte is present on the left of the metamyelocyte. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R33T9DN6V>

**Notes:** Cell is no longer capable of mitosis at this stage. Characteristic feature of a metamyelocyte is the indented nucleus shape (nucleus looks as if it was lightly poked).<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 1.5:1<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** Not visible<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Indented (kidney bean shaped); indent is less than one-third of the diameter of the hypothetical round nucleus

Eccentrically located

Dark purple, coarse, clumped chromatin

### **Cytoplasm:**<sup>2-5</sup>

<b>Granulocyte</b>	<b>Cytoplasm Colour</b>	<b>Secondary (Coarse, Specific) Granule Colour</b>
<b>Neutrophil</b>	pink-tan	azurophilic (reddish-purple)
<b>Eosinophil</b>	cream coloured to colourless	eosinophilic (Pale to dark orange)
<b>Basophil</b>	pale blue	basophilic (dark purple-black)

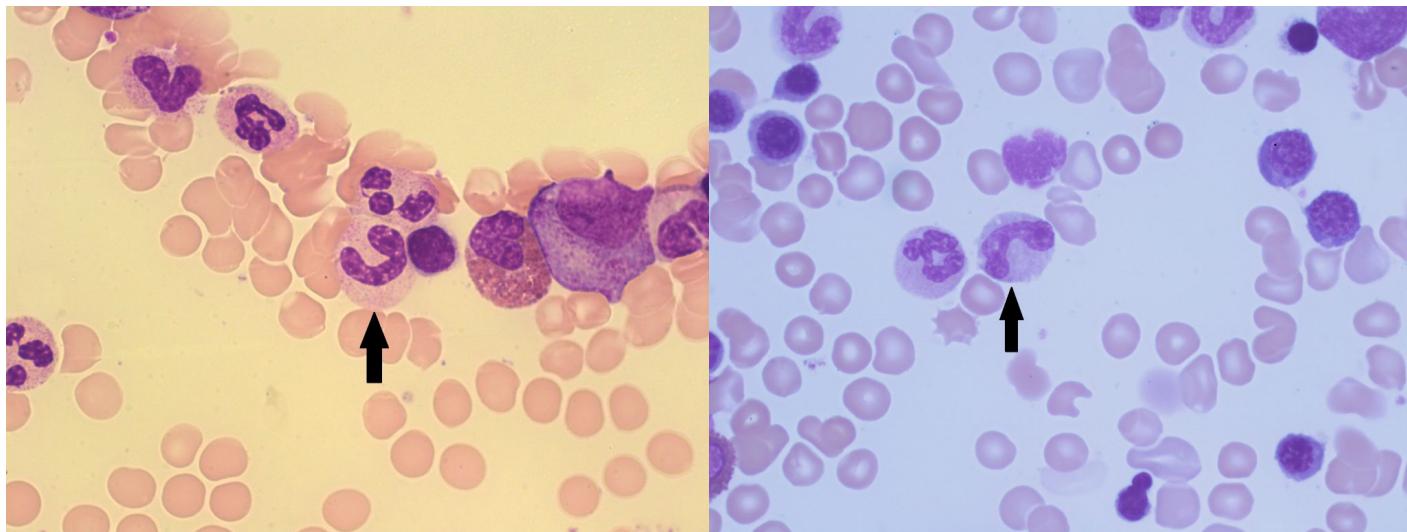
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### **Normal % in the Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood:**<sup>2-5</sup>

<b>Granulocyte</b>	<b>% In Bone Marrow</b>	<b>% In Peripheral Blood</b>
<b>Neutrophil</b>	3-22%	0%
<b>Eosinophil</b>	0-2%	0%
<b>Basophil</b>	0-1%	N/A

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## **Band**



An image from a bone marrow smear demonstrating a band (indicated by an arrow) .100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3G44J599>

An image from a bone marrow smear demonstrating a band (indicated by an arrow). From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R36Q1SZ5T>

**Notes:** Stage shows a nucleus with a larger indentation than a metamyelocyte but it still considered non-segmented.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** Cytoplasm predominates<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** Not visible<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1,3</sup>

Indentation takes up more than one-third of the diameter of the hypothetical round nucleus.

Appears C, U, or S shaped

Centrally or eccentrically located

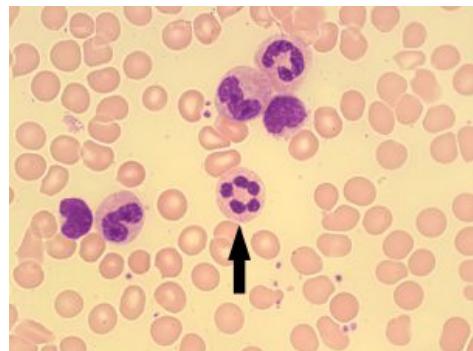
Dark purple, coarse, clumped chromatin

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>2-5</sup>

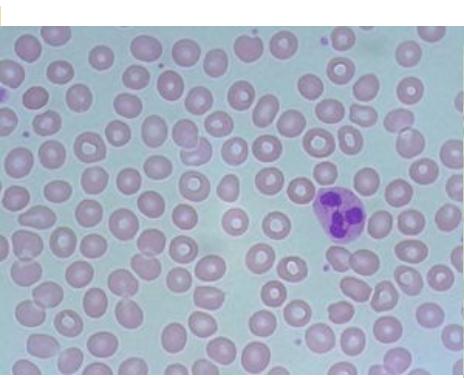
<b>Granulocyte</b>	<b>Cytoplasm Colour</b>	<b>Secondary (Coarse, Specific) Granule Colour</b>
<b>Neutrophil</b>	pink-tan	azurophilic (reddish-purple)
<b>Eosinophil</b>	cream coloured to colourless	eosinophilic (Pale to dark orange)
<b>Basophil</b>	pale blue	basophilic (dark purple-black)

**Normal % in the Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood:<sup>2,4,5</sup>**

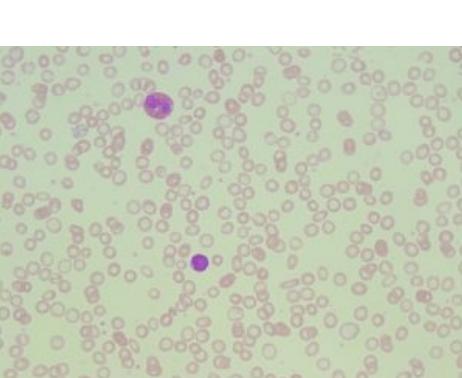
<b>Granulocyte</b>	<b>% In Bone Marrow</b>	<b>% In Peripheral Blood</b>
<b>Neutrophil</b>	7-33%	0-5%
<b>Eosinophil</b>	0-2%	Rare
<b>Basophil</b>	0-1%	N/A

**Mature (Segmented) Granulocyte**

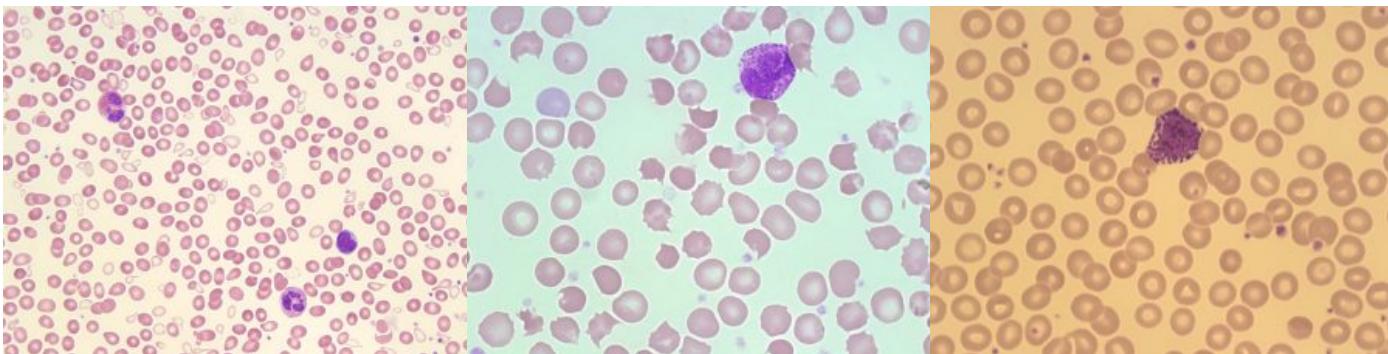
An image from a bone marrow smear showing a mature, segmented neutrophil (indicated by an arrow). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R31V5B> V7D



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a neutrophil. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R39Z90T0G>



An image from a peripheral blood smear with a mature eosinophil (top left). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3599ZH07>



A peripheral blood smear picture showing a mature eosinophil (top left) and neutrophil (bottom right). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3V11W18D>

An image from a normal peripheral blood smear showing a basophil. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30K26S7N>

An image from a normal peripheral blood smear showing a basophil. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34Q7R548>

### Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio: Cytoplasm predominates

**Nucleoli:** Not visible<sup>2</sup>

### Nucleus:<sup>1-5</sup>

Centrally or eccentrically located

Coarse, clumpy, dark purple staining chromatin

Nucleus is separated into lobes which are all connected by chromatin filaments:

Granulocyte	Normal Number of Segmented Lobes
<b>Neutrophil</b>	2-5
<b>Eosinophil</b>	2-3
<b>Basophil</b>	Usually 2, often obscured by granules

### Cytoplasm:<sup>2,4,5</sup>

<b>Granulocyte</b>	<b>Cytoplasm Colour</b>	<b>Secondary (Coarse, Specific) Granule Colour</b>
<b>Neutrophil</b>	pink-tan	azurophilic (reddish-purple)
<b>Eosinophil</b>	cream coloured to colourless	eosinophilic (Pale to dark orange)
<b>Basophil</b>	pale blue	basophilic (dark purple-black), often obscure the nucleus

**Normal % in the Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood:<sup>2,4,5</sup>**

<b>Granulocyte</b>	<b>% In Bone Marrow</b>	<b>% In Peripheral Blood</b>
<b>Neutrophil</b>	3-11%	50-70%
<b>Eosinophil</b>	0-3%	0-5%
<b>Basophil</b>	<1%	0-1%

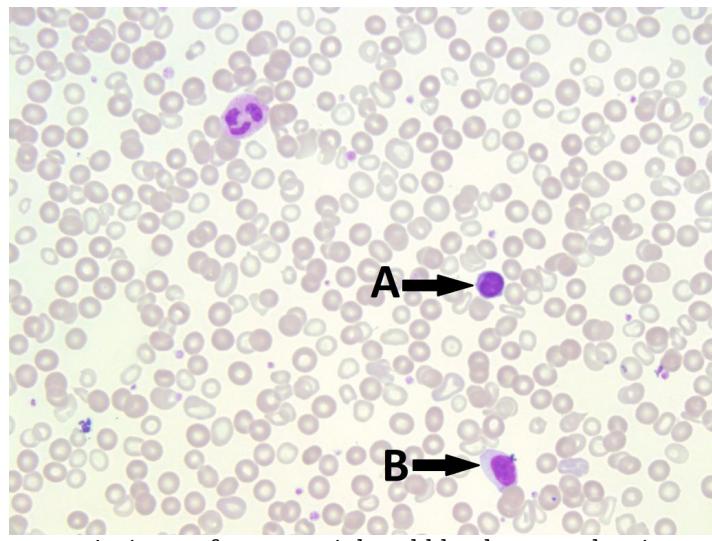
**References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K. Granulocytes and Monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 97-121.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Neutrophil maturation. In: Clinical hematlogy atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 41-54.
3. Bell A, Harmening DM, Hughes VC. Morphology of human blood and marrow cells. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 1-41.
4. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Eosinophil maturation. In: Clinical hematlogy atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 65-74.
5. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Basophil maturation. In: Clinical hematlogy atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 75-8.

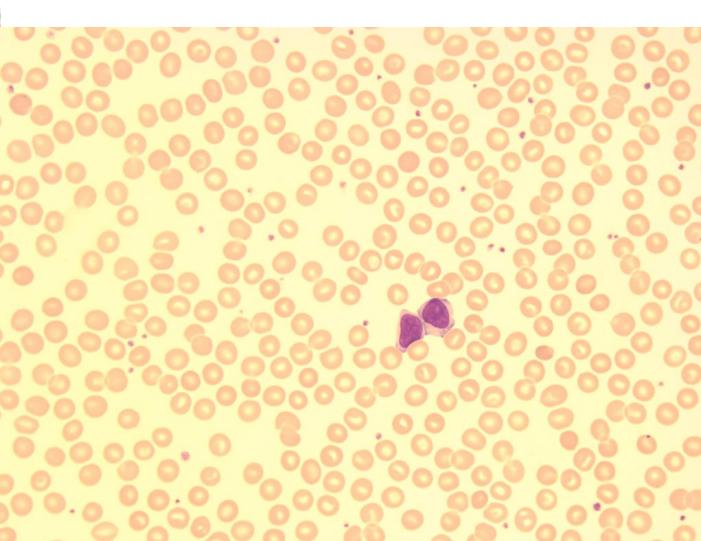
# 56

## Lymphocytes

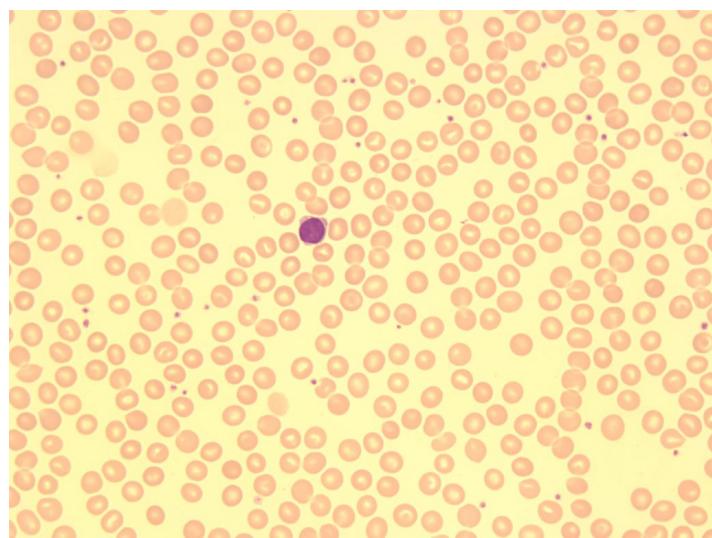
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



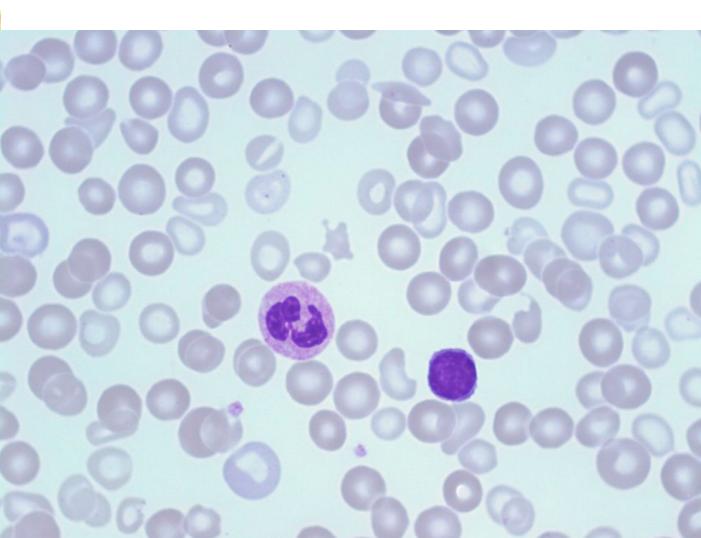
An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a small lymphocyte (A) and a large lymphocyte (B).  
50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JH3DH6Q>



An image from a normal peripheral blood smear showing two large lymphocytes. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30Z71C10>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a small lymphocyte. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3H12VP79>



An image from a peripheral blood smear with a neutrophil (left) and a small lymphocyte (right). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,

**Notes:** Can be characterized as being small or large depending on the amount of cytoplasm. Small lymphocytes are more uniform in appearance whereas large lymphocytes have a variable appearance.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 5:1 to 2:1<sup>1,2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** May be visible<sup>1,2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Round, oval, or indented

Dark purple, dense chromatin (heterochromatin)

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Pale blue

Scant to moderate

Vacuoles may be present

**Granules:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Large: Azurophilic granules may be present

Small: typically lack granules (agranular)

**Normal % in Bone Marrow:** 5-15%<sup>2</sup>

**Normal % in Peripheral Blood:** 20-40%<sup>2</sup>

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## Lymphocyte Lineage

Lymphocytes can be characterized into two cell types depending on the site of cell maturation:

### 1. B Cells

Lymphocytes that mature in the bone marrow. These cells are lymphocytes that are able to mature into plasma cells and take part in antibody production.<sup>1</sup>

Specific surface markers:<sup>1,3</sup>

CD10, CD19, CD20, D21, CD22, D24, CD38

### 2. T Cells

Lymphocytes that mature in the thymus and lymphoid tissues. When these cells become activated, they are able to take part in cell-mediated immunity.<sup>1</sup>

Specific surface markers:<sup>1,3</sup>

CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8, CD25

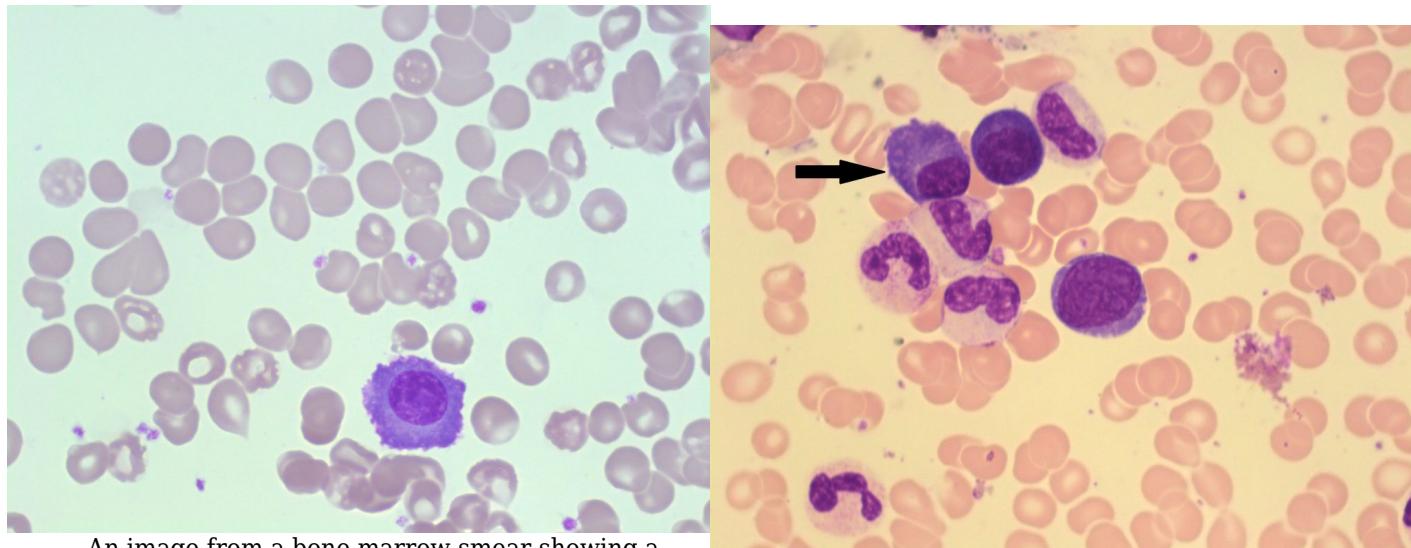
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## References:

1. Williams L, Finnegan K. Lymphocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 122-43.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Lymphocyte maturation. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 79-88.
3. Czader M. Flow cytometric analysis in hematologic disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 543-60.

# Plasma Cells

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image from a bone marrow smear showing a plasma cell. Note the perinuclear clearing surrounding the nucleus. 100 $\times$  oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30C4T111>

An image from a bone marrow smear with a plasma cell (indicated by an arrow). 100 $\times$  oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JM23X5J>

**Notes:** The maturation of a lymphocyte to a plasma cell marks the production of immunoglobulins. Lymphocytes that mature into plasma cells are of B lineage.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** 2:1 to 1:1<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** None<sup>1,2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Round or oval

Eccentrically located

Coarse, clumpy, dark purple staining chromatin

### **Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Abundant

Darkly basophilic

Perinuclear (clear) zone may be seen around the nucleus (Representing the golgi body)

Vacuoles may be present

**Normal % in Bone Marrow:** 0-1%<sup>1,2</sup>

**Normal % in Peripheral Blood:** 0%<sup>1,2</sup>

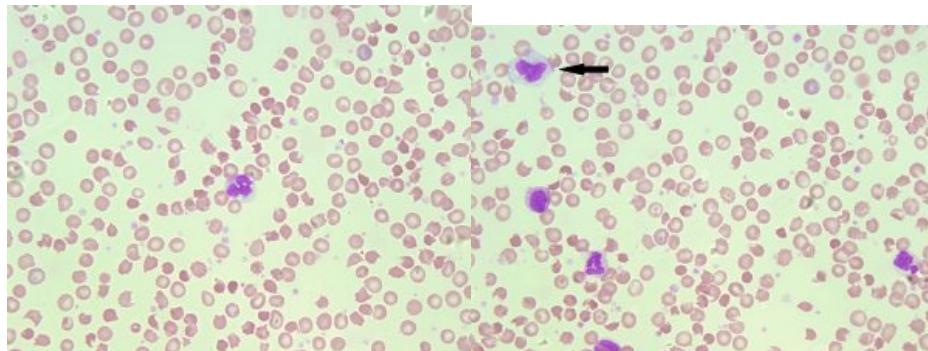
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## **References:**

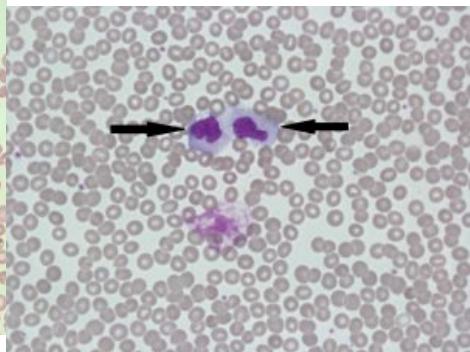
1. Williams L, Finnegan K. Lymphocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 122-43.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Lymphocyte maturation. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 79-88.

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# Monocytes

**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**

An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a monocyte in the center. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3Q52FV0F>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a monocyte in the top left corner (indicated with an arrow). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3FN1172B>

An image from a peripheral blood smear showing two monocytes (indicated by arrows) with prominent vacuoles. 60x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3MG7GB06>

**Notes:** Monocyte nuclear and cytoplasmic morphology can be highly variable.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** Variable<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** Not visible<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Variable shapes (Folds, kidney shaped)

Loose, lacy, violet chromatin

**Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Blue-gray cytoplasm (Ground glass appearance due to fine, diffuse granules)

May have pseudopods

May have vacuoles

**Normal % in Bone Marrow:** 2%<sup>2</sup>

**Normal % in Peripheral Blood:** 3-11%<sup>2</sup>

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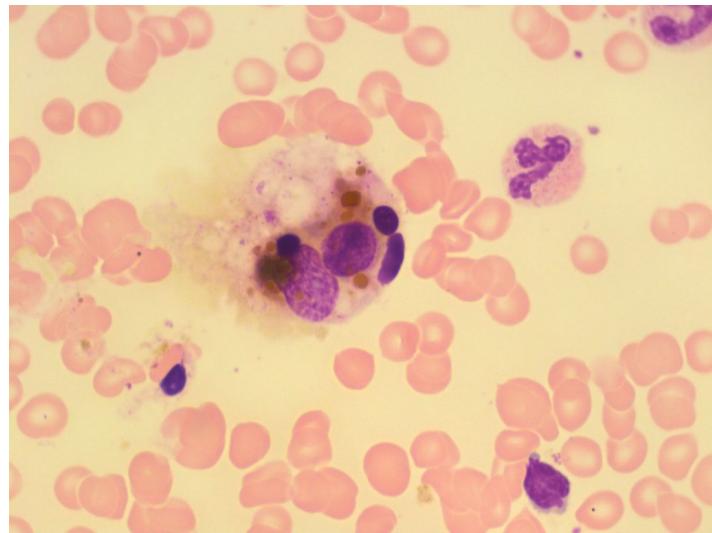
## References:

1. Landis-Piwowar K. Granulocytes and Monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 97-121.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Monocyte maturation. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 55-64.

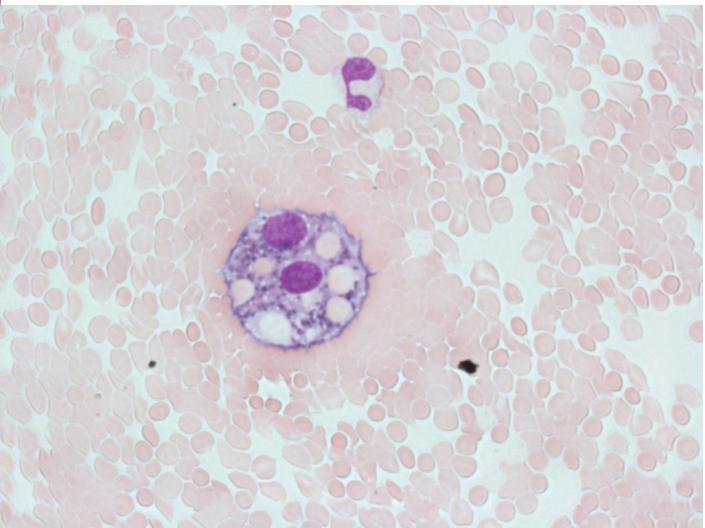
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# Macrophages

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image from a bone marrow smear showing a macrophage with a valuolated and granular cytoplasm. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3DV1D40B>



An image from a Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) cytospin slide showing erythrophagocytosis in a macrophage. Ingested red blood cells, vacuolation, and hemosiderin granules can be seen within the cell. 60x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R36H4D570>

**Notes:** Macrophages represent the mature form of monocytes when they leave the circulation and enter the tissues.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** 1-2<sup>2</sup>

### **Nucleus:**<sup>2</sup>

Variable shapes (kidney, rounded, indented, oval)

Eccentrically located

Dark purple, coarse, clumped chromatin

### **Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Abundant

Irregular shaped

Many azurophilic granules

May contain ingested material and/or storage granules (hemosiderin, red blood cells, lipids, microorganisms, debris)

May contain vacuoles

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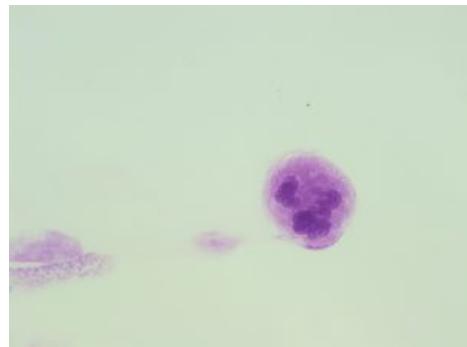
## **References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K. Granulocytes and Monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 97-121.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Monocyte maturation. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 55-64.

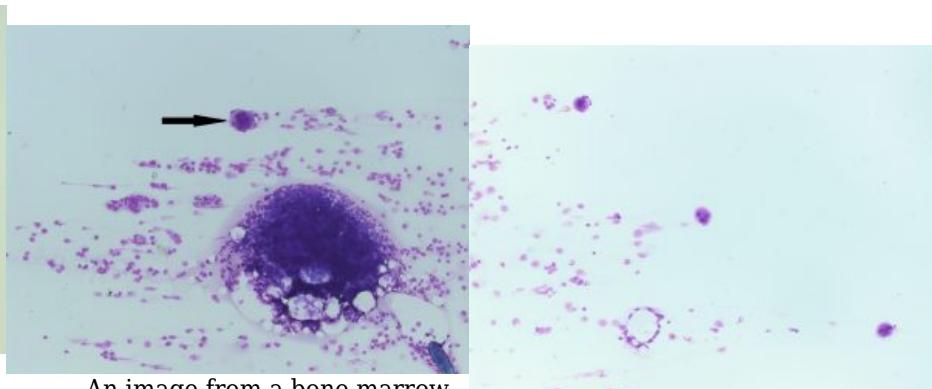
60

# Megakaryocytes

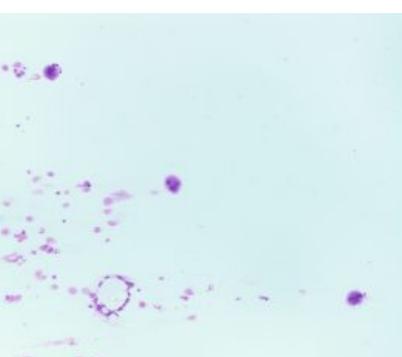
**MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO**



An image from a bone marrow smear showing a normal megakaryocyte with multiple nuclear lobes. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3FF3MF8N>



An image from a bone marrow smear showing a megakaryocyte (indicated by an arrow) in the tails of the smear. 10x magnification. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3TQ5RV93>



An image from a bone marrow smear showing three megakaryocytes in the tail of the smear. 10x magnification. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3K64B82D>

**Notes:** Develop and are mainly found in the bone marrow. Maturation usually involves the division of nucleus but not the division of the cytoplasm, this gives rise to a polyploid cell.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** Variable<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:**

Variable number of lobes (2-32)<sup>2</sup>

### **Cytoplasm:**<sup>2</sup>

Abundant

Blue to purple cytoplasm

Reddish blue granules may be visible

**% in Bone Marrow:** 5-10 (per field at 100x magnification)<sup>2</sup>

**% in Peripheral Blood:** None

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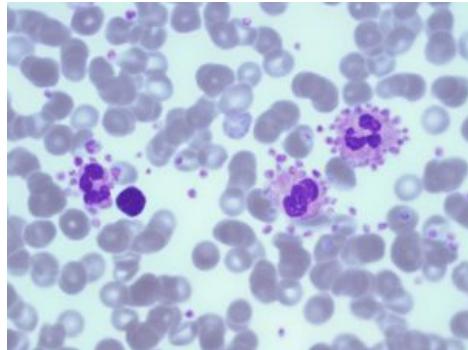
## **References:**

1. Lynne Williams J. The Platelet. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 144-53.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Megakaryocyte maturation. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 31-40.

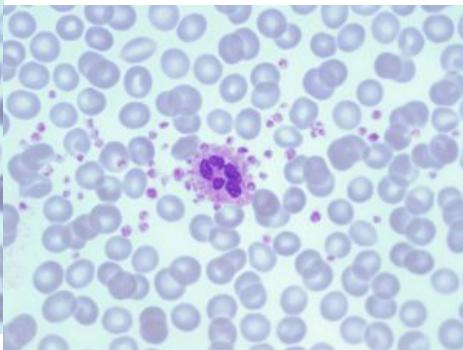
## 61

# Platelets

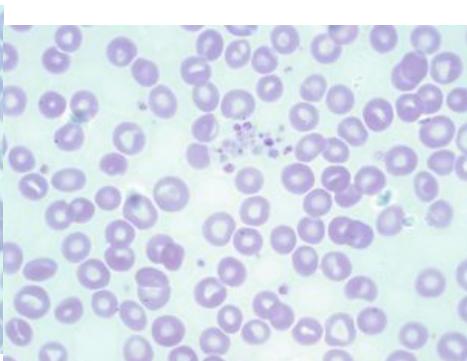
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image from the thicker section of a peripheral blood smear showing platelet satellitism around three neutrophils. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R31Z4280R>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing platelet satellitism around a neutrophil. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3F766P1H>



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating platelet clumping. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3XD0RD0V>

**Notes:** Platelets are cytoplasmic fragmentations from a megakaryocyte. Fragmentation occurs by the megakaryocyte demarcation membrane system.<sup>1</sup>

**Nucleus-to-Cytoplasm Ratio:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleoli:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

**Nucleus:** N/A<sup>2</sup>

### **Cytoplasm:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Light blue to colourless

Azurophilic granules present

% in Bone Marrow: N/A

% in Peripheral Blood: 7-25 per field (100x oil immersion field)

### **Reticulated Platelets**

Immature platelets that contain an abundant amount of RNA.<sup>1</sup>

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## **Platelet Clumps and Satellitism**

**Platelet satellitism** is a phenomenon that can occur in vitro when a blood sample is collected in an EDTA anticoagulant tube. Platelets *adhere* to neutrophils by an antibody mediated process and this results in falsely decreased platelet counts.<sup>3,4</sup>

**Platelet clumping** can also occur when blood is collected in an EDTA tube. Platelets become activated and *aggregate*. EDTA causes some cell antigens to be unmasked and react with antibodies in the serum.<sup>3,4</sup>

In both cases, the issue may be corrected when blood samples are collected in sodium citrate anti-coagulated tubes.<sup>3,4</sup>

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## References:

1. Lynne Williams J. The Platelet. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 144-53.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Megakaryocyte maturation. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 31-40.
3. Burns C, Dotson M. Hematology Procedures. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 782-814.
4. Clark KS, Hippe TGl. Manual, semiautomated, and point-of-care testing in hematology. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p.187-207.

XI

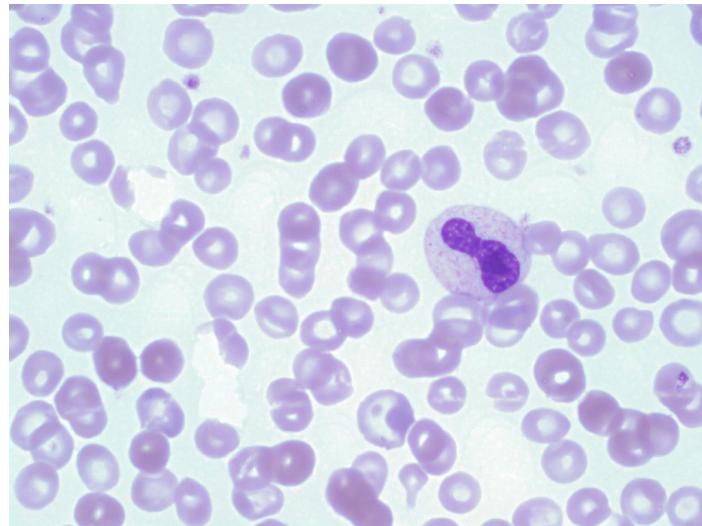
# WHITE BLOOD CELLS: NON-MALIGNANT LEUKOCYTE DISORDERS

# 62

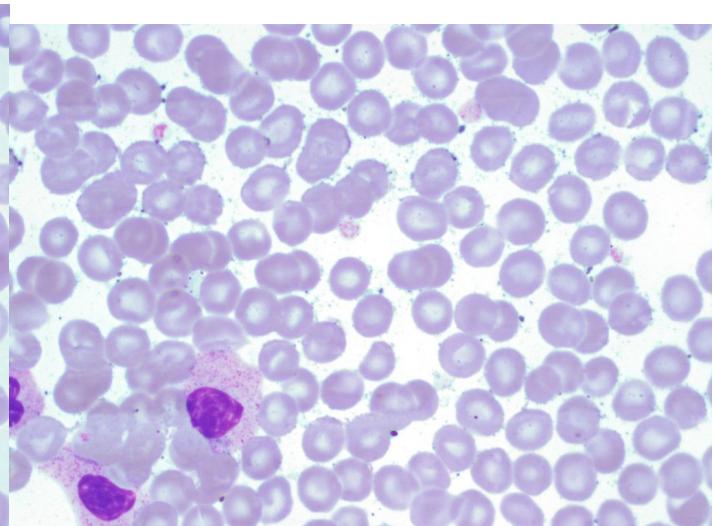
## Neutrophil Hyposegmentation

VALENTIN VILLATORO AND MICHELLE TO

### Hyposegmentation



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a mildly hypogranular and hyposegmented neutrophil. Note the mature cytoplasm colour and nuclear chromatin pattern. 100x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R30863M82>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a unilobed (hyposegmented) neutrophil. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3JW8733H>

If there are many mature granulocytes that have a nucleus with less than 3 lobes, they are considered to be hyposegmented.<sup>1</sup> The term “Pelger Huet” or “Pseudo Perlget Huet” may also be used depending on the context.

### Related Conditions:<sup>2</sup>

Pelger-Huet Anomaly

## Pseudo-Pelger-Huet Anomaly

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## References:

1. Landis-Piwowar K. Granulocytes and Monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 97-121.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Nuclear and cytoplasmic changes in leukocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 131-38.

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## Neutrophil Hypersegmentation

VALENTIN VILLATORO AND MICHELLE TO

## Neutrophil Hypersegmentation

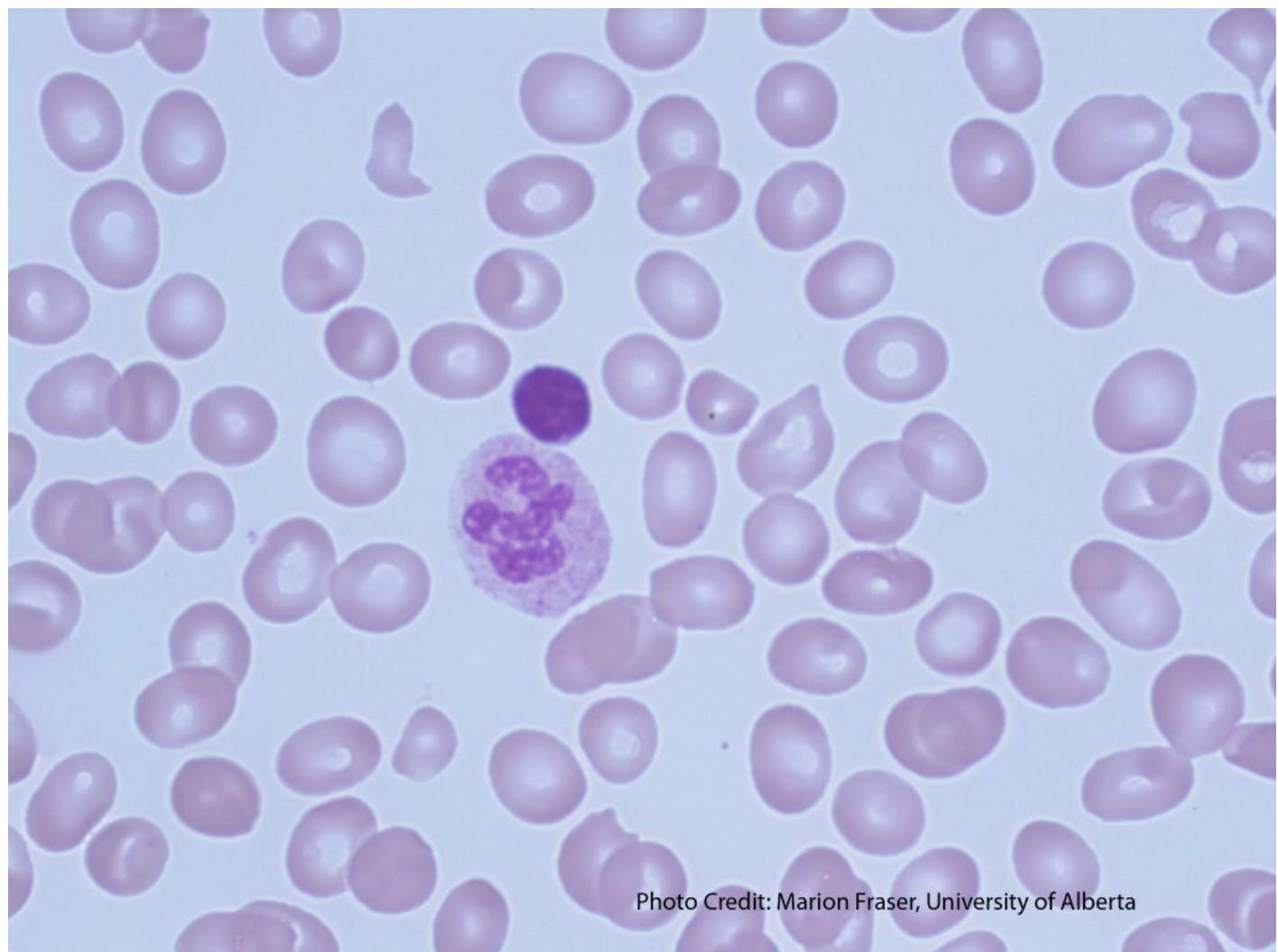


Photo Credit: Marion Fraser, University of Alberta

This smear demonstrates a hypersegmented neutrophil. 100x magnification. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3GT5FX0V>

If there are many mature granulocytes that have a nucleus with 5 or more lobes, they are considered to be hypersegmented.<sup>1</sup>

### **Related Conditions:<sup>2</sup>**

Megaloblastic Anemia

Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Chronic Infections

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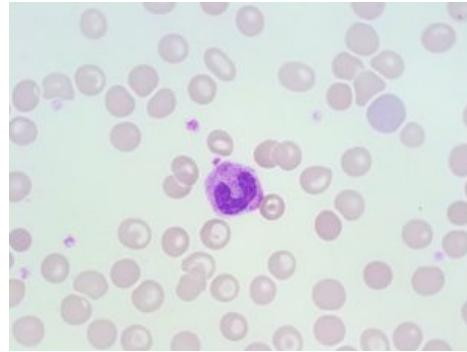
## **References:**

1. Landis-Piwowar K. Granulocytes and Monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 97-121.
2. Rodak BF, Carr JH. Nuclear and cytoplasmic changes in leukocytes. In: Clinical hematology atlas. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.; 2017. p. 131-38.

## 64

# Toxic Changes

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An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a band with a blue Dohle body inclusion found in the center of the cell and toxic granulation. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3930P95D>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing toxic changes (Granulation, vacuolation) in two neutrophils. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3891261T>



Photo Credit: Marion Flory, University of Alberta

A peripheral blood smear picture showing granulocytes with toxic changes. The Band (center) shows toxic granulation and a Dohle body. The neutrophil (bottom) shows toxic vacuolation. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3HT2GT1K>

## Cell Features:<sup>1,2</sup>

Toxic morphological changes are seen in neutrophils. A left shift with an increase in immature granulocytes typically accompanies toxic changes. In order to report toxic changes, typically two out of the three features should be seen in the majority of neutrophils:

### **1. Toxic Granulation:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Dark blue-black peroxidase positive granules that appear in the cytoplasm of the neutrophil. Appear very similar to Alder-Reilly bodies found in Alder-Reilly anomaly but is commonly found with other features of toxicity. Can be found in mature neutrophils, bands, and metamyelocytes.

## 2. Toxic Vacuolation:<sup>1-3</sup>

Clear, circular, and unstained cytoplasmic areas that represent phagocytosis or autophagocytosis. Vacuoles may contain bacteria or yeast if the patient is septic.

## 3. Dohle Bodies:<sup>1-3</sup>

Pale blue, round or elongated cytoplasmic inclusions containing remnant ribosomal ribonucleic acid (RNA) in parallel rows (rough endoplasmic reticulum). Often present in mature neutrophils and bands near the periphery of the cell. Bodies are non-specific and can appear in several conditions such as pregnancy, cancer, burns, and infections.

**Note:** A left shift is usually seen on the peripheral blood smear when toxicity is present. A Left shift refers to the increase presence of immature bands and myeloid precursors.

## Cause:<sup>1</sup>

Reaction to infection, inflammation, stress, and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor therapy

## Laboratory Features:<sup>1,2</sup>

---

**CBCD:**  
Moderate leukocytosis  
Neutrophilia

**Peripheral Blood Smear:**  
At least 2 of 3 toxic changes in the majority of neutrophils  
Left shift (often)

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## References:

1. Manonneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.

2. Jones KW. Evaluation of cell morphology and introduction to platelet and white blood cell morphology. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 93-116.
3. Landis-Piwowar K. Nonmalignant disorders of leukocytes: granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 388-407.

# 65

## Pelger-Huet Anomaly

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=643>

*Images of Pelger-Huet Anomaly in various peripheral blood smears showing numerous hyposegmented neutrophils with mature clumped chromatin. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3DB7W572>*

*Image 2: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R32Z13500>*

*Image 3: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3Z60CH59>*

### **PBS Key Features:<sup>1-4</sup>**

Neutrophil nuclei appear hyposegmented – can appear as a single round nucleus (unlobed, homozygous Pelger-Huet Anomaly) or dumbbell shaped (bilobed, heterozygous Pelger-Huet Anomaly). Anomaly is differentiated from a left shift by displaying mature chromatin pattern, abundant cytoplasm (low nuclear:cytoplasmic ratio), mature granulation, and an absence of toxic changes.

Congenital Pelger-Huet: granulocytes show normal granulation, 50-90% of neutrophils are affected.

Pseudo Pelger-Huet: seen in leukocyte malignancies and Myelodysplastic Syndrome, hypogranulation and other Dy's plastic features may be present, 10-30% of neutrophils are affected.

## Clinical Significance and Cause:<sup>1,3,5</sup>

Pelger-Huet Anomaly is benign and cell function is normal. Pseudo Pelger-Huet may indicate leukocyte malignancies and myelodysplasia.

Congenital: Lamin β-receptor gene mutation.

Acquired (Pseudo-Pelger-Huet): Hematologic malignancies such as myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs). Pseudo-Pelger-Huet may also be seen during infections, and drug interactions.

## Inheritance Pattern:<sup>1-3,5</sup>

Autosomal dominant

## CBC:<sup>2</sup>

Congenital Pelger-Huet: Cytopenias often absent

Pseudo-Pelger-Huet: Cytopenias often present

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## References:

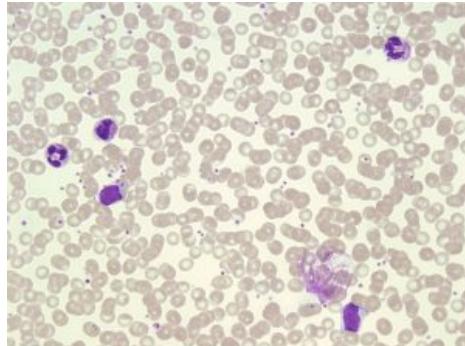
1. Turgeon ML. Nonmalignant Disorders of Granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 206-16.
2. Cunningham JM, Patnaik MM, Hammerschmidt DE, Vercellotti GM. Historical perspective and clinical implications of the Pelger-Huet cell. Am J Hematol [Internet]. 2009 Oct 20 [cited 2018 Jul 10];84(2):116-9. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajh.21320>
3. Manonneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.

4. Harmening DM, Marty J, Strauss RG. Cell biology, disorders of neutrophils, infectious mononucleosis, and reactive lymphocytosis. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 305-30.
5. Landis-Piwowar K. Nonmalignant disorders of leukocytes: granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 388-407.

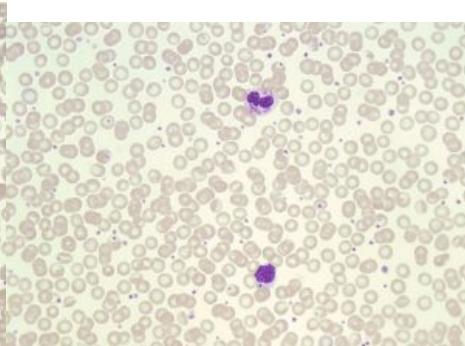
# 66

## Chediak-Higashi Syndrome

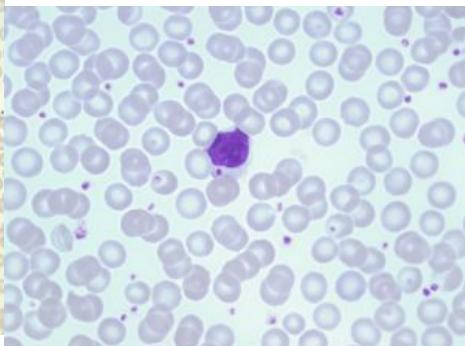
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image of a peripheral blood smear demonstrating neutrophils with abnormally large fused granules seen in Chediak-Higashi Syndrome. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R39S1M158>



An image of a peripheral blood smear demonstrating a neutrophil with abnormally large fused granules (top) and a lymphocyte containing a single large granule in the cytoplasm (bottom) seen in Chediak-Higashi syndrome. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3707X414>



An image of a peripheral blood smear demonstrating a lymphocyte containing a single large granule in the cytoplasm seen in Chediak-Higashi syndrome. 100X oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3377697R>

### PBS Key Features:<sup>1,2</sup>

Leukocytes contain abnormally large lysosomal granules in the cytoplasm. Granules represent the aggregation of primary granules combined with the fusion of secondary granules.

### Cause:<sup>3</sup>

Mutation in the *CHS1/LYST* gene which encodes for a vesicle transport protein.

### **Inheritance Pattern:**<sup>3-5</sup>

Autosomal recessive

### **Clinical Significance:**<sup>1,3-5</sup>

Development of lysosomes are abnormal resulting in the fusion of granules. The syndrome results in impaired chemotaxis, defective degranulation, and defective killing of bacteria. Granulocytes, Platelets, Monocytes, and lymphocytes are dysfunctional.

Patients often present with oculocutaneous albinism, recurrent bacterial infections and bleeding tendencies. Complications develop during early childhood.

### **CBC:**<sup>1,2,5</sup>

Anemia

Neutropenia

Thrombocytopenia

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## **References:**

1. Harmening DM, Marty J, Strauss RG. Cell biology, disorders of neutrophils, infectious mononucleosis, and reactive lymphocytosis. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 305-30.
2. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>
3. Manionneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematologic clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.

4. Turgeon ML. Nonmalignant Disorders of Granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 206-16.
5. Landis-Piwowar K. Nonmalignant disorders of leukocytes: granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 388-407.

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# Alder-Reilly Anomaly

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## **PBS Key Features:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Granulocytes show metachromatic and darkly staining inclusions (Alder-Reilly bodies) containing partially digested mucopolysaccharides that resemble toxic granulation but are permanent (non-transient). Anomaly is differentiated from toxicity by a lack of Dohle bodies, left shift, and neutrophilia. Abnormal granules may also be seen in lymphocytes and monocytes.

## **Cause:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Incomplete degradation of mucopolysaccharides (Mucopolysaccharidosis disorder)

## **Inheritance Pattern:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Autosomal recessive

## **Clinical Significance:**<sup>1-5</sup>

Leukocyte function is not impaired. Associated syndromes include Tay-Sachs disease, Hunter syndrome, Hurler syndrome, and Maroteaux-Lamy polydystrophic dwarfism which all result in different clinical symptoms.

## **CBC:**

N/A

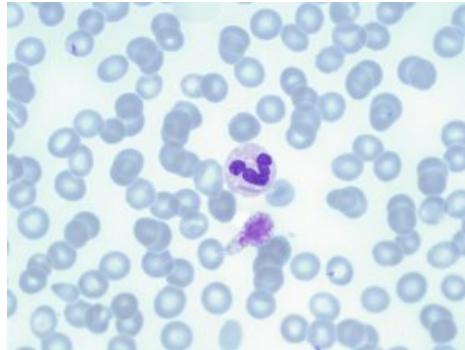
## References:

1. Manonneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.
2. Harmening DM, Marty J, Strauss RG. Cell biology, disorders of neutrophils, infectious mononucleosis, and reactive lymphocytosis. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 305-30.
3. Turgeon ML. Nonmalignant Disorders of Granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 206-16.
4. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>
5. Landis-Piwowar K. Nonmalignant disorders of leukocytes: granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 388-407.

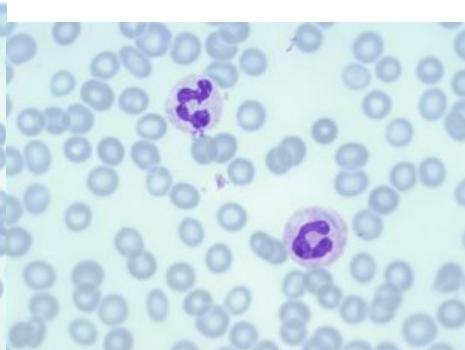
# 68

## May-Hegglin Anomaly

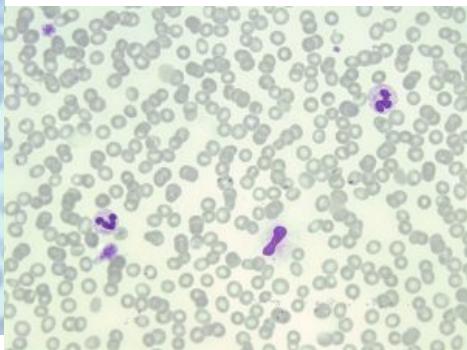
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating a blue dohle body-like inclusion in a neutrophil and a giant platelet seen in May-Hegglin anomaly. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3W669Q4B>



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating blue dohle body-like inclusions in two neutrophils seen in May-Hegglin anomaly. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34Q7R53S>



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating blue dohle body-like inclusions in two neutrophils along with enlarged platelets seen in May-Hegglin anomaly. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R30Z71B9D>

### PBS Key Features:<sup>1-4</sup>

Graunulocyte and Monocyte cytoplasms contain large basophilic inclusions that resemble Dohle bodies but are much larger and elongated. Inclusions are composed of precipitated myosin heavy chains.

Giant platelets and thrombocytopenia are also associated with this anomaly.

### Cause:<sup>1</sup>

MYH9 gene mutation

**Inheritance Pattern:**<sup>1,5</sup>

Autosomal dominant

**Clinical Significance:**<sup>1-3,5</sup>

May-Hegglin anomaly is a platelet disorder that can cause mild bleeding tendencies but majority of patients are asymptomatic. Degree of bleeding is correlated to the degree of thrombocytopenia. Leukocyte function is unaffected.

**CBC:**<sup>1,5</sup>

Variable thrombocytopenia

---

## References:

1. Manonneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.
2. Harmening DM, Marty J, Strauss RG. Cell biology, disorders of neutrophils, infectious mononucleosis, and reactive lymphocytosis. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 305-30.
3. Turgeon ML. Nonmalignant Disorders of Granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 206-16.
4. Bain BJ. Morphology of blood cells. In: Blood cells: a practical guide [Internet]. 5th ed. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2015 [cited 2018 Jul 10]: 67-185. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/9781118817322>
5. Landis-Piwowar K. Nonmalignant disorders of leukocytes: granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 388-407.

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## Chronic Granulomatous Disease

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### **PBS:**<sup>1</sup>

Leukoctye morphology is normal.

### **Cause:**<sup>2</sup>

Mutations in the NADPH oxidase subunit genes.

### **Inheritance Pattern:**<sup>2-4</sup>

Autosomal recessive, X-linked recessive

### **Clinical Significance:**<sup>2-4</sup>

Antmicrobial activity defect where neutrophils and monocytes are unable to kill catalase positive organisms after ingestion. The respiratory burst is not activated and cells are unable to produce reactive oxygen species and superoxide. Disease results in recurrent and life-threatening bacterial and fungal infections in the first year of life.

Infections occur often in the lung, skin, lymph nodes, and liver. Granuloma formation can be found in various organs and cause obstruction.

### **Additional Tests:**<sup>1</sup>

Nitroblue Tetrazolium Test (NBT)

Flow Cytometry

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**References:**

1. Manonneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.
2. Harmening DM, Marty J, Strauss RG. Cell biology, disorders of neutrophils, infectious mononucleosis, and reactive lymphocytosis. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 305-30.
3. Turgeon ML. Nonmalignant Disorders of Granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 206-16.
4. Landis-Piwowar K. Nonmalignant disorders of leukocytes: granulocytes and monocytes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 388-407.

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# Infectious Mononucleosis/Reactive Lymphocytes

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<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=667>

*Images of peripheral blood smears with heterogeneous reactive lymphocytes with prominent basophilic skirting of the cytoplasm. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3G44J57B>*

*Image 2: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34M91R9B>*

*Image 3: 60 x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3GQ6RH6F>*

## **Cell Features:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Large reactive (atypical) lymphocytes that represent activated T cells. The cytoplasm shows characteristic basophilic skirting in areas where there is contact with red blood cells. Red blood cells look as if they are creating indents in the cytoplasm. The population of reactive lymphocytes is heterogeneous with diverse shapes and sizes in cytoplasm and nuclear shapes.

## **Cause:**<sup>1,3-5</sup>

Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) infection that is usually acute, benign, and self-limiting.

## **Age group affected:**<sup>1,3,5</sup>

Young adults (approx. 15-25 years of age)

### **Common Clinical Symptoms:**<sup>1,4</sup>

Classic Triad: Pharyngitis, fever, lymphadenopathy.

### **Laboratory Features:**<sup>1,3,5</sup>

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<b>CBC:</b>	<b>PBS</b>
Leukocytosis	Reactive lymphocytes
Absolute lymphocytosis	

---

### **Other Tests:**<sup>1,3,5</sup>

Positive heterophile antibody\*

Positive EBV specific antigen and antibody (ELISA)\*

Elevated C-reactive protein (CRP)

Viral cultures

Flow cytometry (to rule out malignancies with similar cell morphologies)

\*Positivity for antigen or antibody varies depending on the date of testing. Some antigen or antibodies may appear only after a few weeks of infection.

### **Immunologic Markers:**<sup>2</sup>

CD3, CD4 or CD8

## References:

1. Manonneaux S. Nonmalignant leukocyte disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 475-97.
2. Holmer LD, Bueso-Ramos CE. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia and related lymphoproliferative disorders. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 440-65.
3. Beglinger SS. Nonmalignant lymphocyte disorders. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 409-24.
4. Turgeon ML. Leukocytes: nonmalignant lymphocytic disorders. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 229-43.
5. Harmening DM, Marty J, Strauss RG. Cell biology, disorders of neutrophils, infectious mononucleosis, and reactive lymphocytosis. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 305-30.

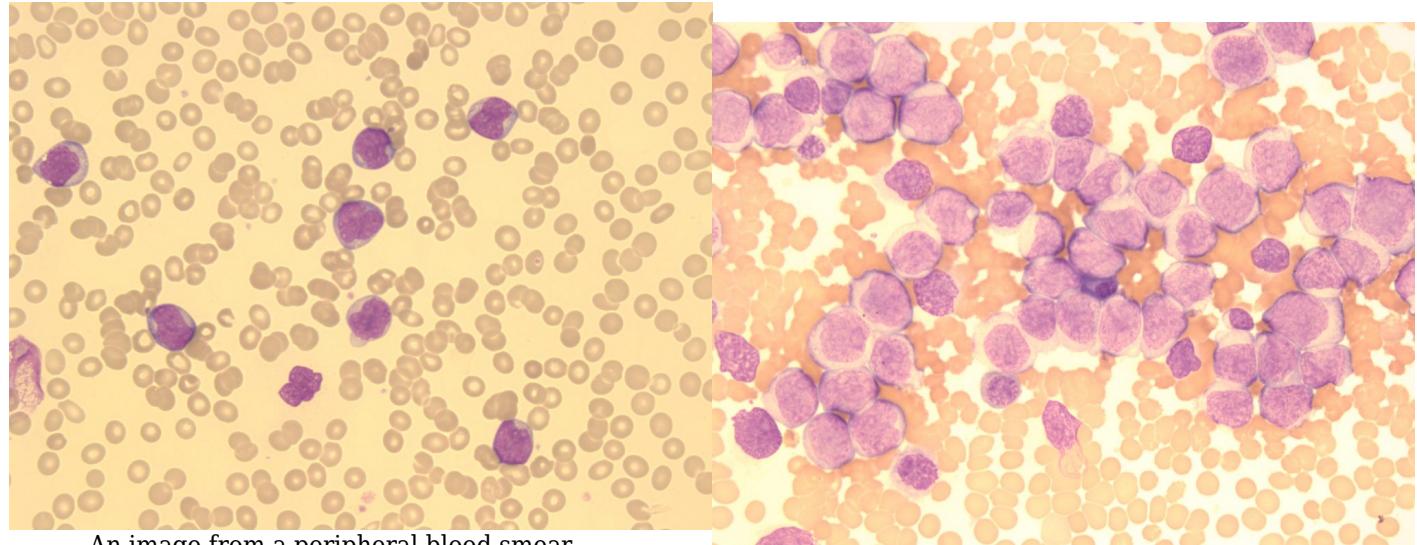
XII

# WHITE BLOOD CELLS: ACUTE LEUKEMIA

# 71

## Introduction to Leukemias

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An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating blasts with a loose, immature chromatin pattern, a high nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio, and basophilic cytoplasm seen in an Acute Leukemia. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3TB0Z99Q>

An image from a bone marrow smear demonstrating an abundance of blasts and a reduction of normal hematopoietic cells seen in an Acute Leukemia. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3Z31P43G>

**Leukemia:** Describes tumors that originate from the bone marrow.<sup>1</sup>

**Lymphoma:** Describes tumors that originate from the lymphatic tissues.<sup>1</sup>

The causes of acute leukemia are vast. There are a number of factors that can lead to the development of leukemia, such as: genetic mutations, environmental factors (e.g. exposure to drugs, chemicals, radiation), inherited syndromes (e.g. Down syndrome, fanconi anemia), viral infections (e.g. HIV), immunologic dysfunction (e.g. immunosuppressants), or idiopathic factors.<sup>1</sup>

There are different classification systems that exist to categorize acute and chronic leukemias. Two examples are the French-American-British (FAB) system and the World Health Organization (WHO) system.<sup>1-4</sup>

**Note:** Please be aware that these schemes are updated periodically and the sources used in this ebook may not reflect the most current classification systems used.

Leukemias are described as being “acute” or “chronic” and specified as to which cell lineage and maturation stage is affected.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 1. Comparison of Acute and Chronic Leukemias.<sup>5,6</sup>**

<b>Acute</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
All ages affected	Mainly adults affected
Rapid onset	Insidious onset
Involve immature cells	Involve mature cells
≥20%* blasts in PBS or BM	≤20% blasts in PBS or BM

\*WHO Classification Criteria

## References:

1. McKenzie SB. Introduction to hematopoietic neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 424-45.
2. Roquiz W, Gandhi P, Kini AR. Acute leukemias. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 543-60.
3. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.

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5. Gatter K, Cruz F, Braziel R. Introduction to leukemia and the acute leukemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 331-370.
6. Bentley G, Leclair SJ. Acute Myeloid Leukemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 500-21.

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# Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

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## **WHO Classification (2008):<sup>1</sup>**

As of 2008, the WHO has classified ALL into categories based on the lymphoblast origin and genetic abnormalities:

### 1. B Lymphoblastic Leukemia/Lymphoma

- With recurrent genetic abnormalities
- Not otherwise specified (NOS)

### 2. T Lymphoblastic Leukemia/Lymphoma

**Affected Age:** Primarily children 2-5 years old.<sup>2</sup>

## **Affected Cell:<sup>1</sup>**

B and T lymphoblasts

## **ALL Blasts Cell Features:<sup>1,3,4</sup>**

Size: Blasts are variable in size, usually smaller than myeloblasts

Nucleoli: Often indistinct, 0-2

Chromatin: Fine to coarse, dispersed chromatin

Cytoplasm: Usually scant and basophilic, vacuoles may also be present

Auer Rods: Not present

Auer Rods are thought to be fused primary granules and are only found in myeloblasts. Presence of auer rods is distinctive of AML and can be used to differentiate the condition from ALL if they are present.<sup>2</sup>

### Laboratory Results for ALL:<sup>1,3,5</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Variable PLT: Decreased	<b>PBS:</b> Lymphoblasts Normocytic Normochromic Anisocytosis, poikilocytosis, and nRBCs are usually not present.	<b>BM:</b> ≥20% Lymphoblasts Hypercellular with replacement of normal hematopoietic tissue
<b>Immunologic Markers:</b> <u>B cell:</u> TdT, CD10, CD19, CD22, CD24, CD34 <u>T cell:</u> TdT, CD1, CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8, CD10	<b>Other Tests:</b> LD: Increased Hyperuricemia Hypercalcemia Cytogenetics Cytochemical Stains	

## References:

1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.
2. McKenzie SB. Introduction to hematopoietic neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 424-45.
3. Leclair SJ, Bentley G. Precursor Lymphoid Neoplasms. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 522-34.
4. Gatter K, Cruz F, Braziel R. Introduction to leukemia and the acute leukemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p.

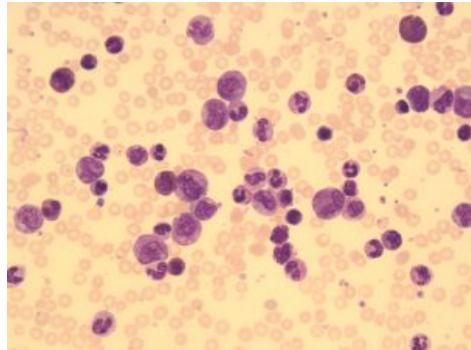
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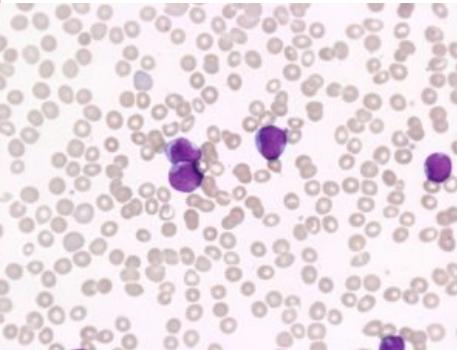
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# Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)

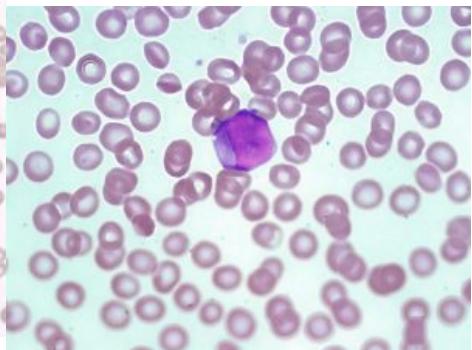
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An image from a bone marrow smear showing an abundant amount of myeloid precursors and a few myeloblasts seen in a patient with acute myeloid leukemia. 50x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R32V2CR7N>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing myeloblasts. One myeloblast contains a faint, pink staining, auer rod. 60x oil immersion.  
From MLS Collection,  
University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3C24R34V>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a myeloblast with multiple auer rods (stained pink) seen in AML. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3DV1D397>

## WHO Classification (2008):

As of 2008, acute myeloid leukemias have been classified into different subcategories based on the type of genetic abnormalities, type of myeloid cell type affected, and by cell characteristics:<sup>1</sup>

1. Acute myeloid leukemia with recurrent genetic abnormalities
2. Acute myeloid leukemia with myelodysplastic changes
3. Therapy related myeloid neoplasms
4. Acute myeloid leukemia, not otherwise specified (NOS)
5. Myeloid Sarcoma

6. Myeloid Proliferations related to Down syndrome

7. Blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm

**Affected Age:** Adults.<sup>2</sup>

**Cells of myeloid lineage are affected:<sup>1</sup>**

- Myeloblast
- Monocytes
- Erythrocytes
- Megakaryocytes
- Dendritic cells

**AML Blasts Cell Features:<sup>3</sup>**

Size: Myeloblasts are usually larger compared to lymphoblasts and have a consistent appearance.

Nucleoli: Prominent, 1-4 present

Chromatin: Loose open chromatin

Cytoplasm: Often abundant and granules may be visible

Auer Rods: may be present (stained faint pink with Wright's stain)

Auer Rods are thought to be fused primary granules and are only found in myeloblasts. Presence of auer rods is distinctive of AML and can be used to differentiate the condition from ALL if it is present.<sup>1</sup>

**Laboratory Results for AML:**<sup>1,4,5</sup>

**CBC:**  
RBC: Decreased  
WBC: Variable  
PLT: Decreased  
Hb: Decreased  
RDW: Increased

**PBS:**  
Myeloblasts ± Auer rods  
Macrocytic RBCs  
May see hypogranular PLT, Giant PLT  
Neutropenia (Can appear dysplastic)  
May see Basophilia, Eosinophilia, Monocytosis

**BM:**  
≥20% Myeloblasts ± Auer rods  
Hypercellular  
Decreased fat

**Immunologic Markers:**  
Depending on the subgroup, cells may be positive for:  
CD11b, CD13, CD14, CD33, CD34, CD117

**Other Tests:**  
LD: Increased  
Hyperuricemia  
Hyperphosphatemia  
Hypocalcemia  
Hypokalemia  
Cytogenetics  
Cytochemistry

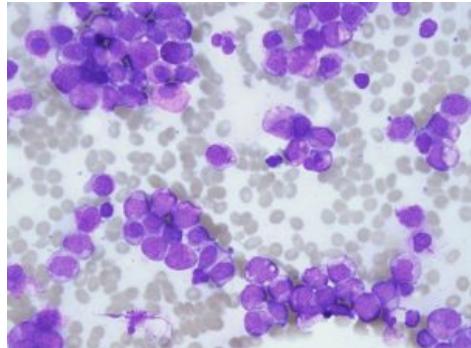
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1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.
2. McKenzie SB. Introduction to hematopoietic neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 424-45.
3. Gatter K, Cruz F, Braziel R. Introduction to leukemia and the acute leukemias. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 331-370.
4. Roquiz W, Gandhi P, Kini AR. Acute leukemias. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 543-60.
5. Bentley G, Leclair SJ. Acute Myeloid Leukemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 500-21.

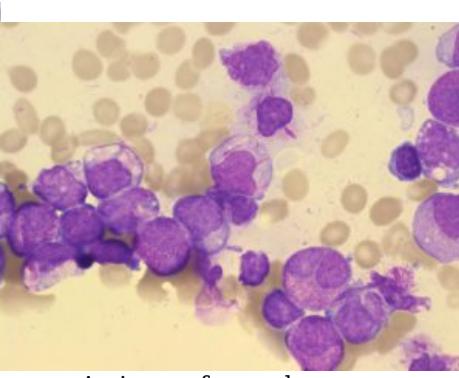
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# Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)

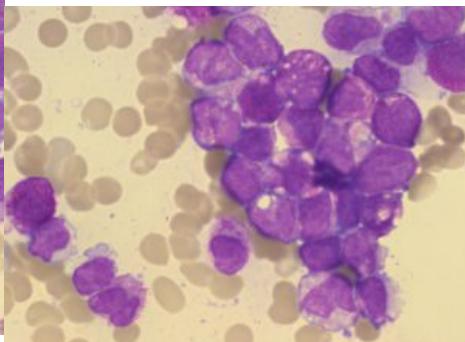
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An image from a bone marrow smear demonstrating numerous myeloid precursors arrested at the promyelocyte stage, and cells with bundles of auer rods known as faggot cells in acute promyelocytic leukemia. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3WH2DW4D>



An image from a bone marrow smear showing faggot cells with bundles of auer rods seen in acute promyelocytic leukemia. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3N010854>



An image from a bone marrow smear showing faggot cells with bundles of auer rods seen in acute promyelocytic leukemia. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3H708G10>

**Note:** APL is a subtype of AML where the promyelocytes specifically are affected. It is classified under the “AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities” and is associated with a specific genetic abnormality: t(15;17)(q22;q12); PML-RARA.

## Affected Age:

Most often middle age adults, but APL can develop at any age,<sup>1,2</sup>

## Affected Cell: <sup>1</sup>

## Promyelocyte

### **Cell Description:**<sup>1,2</sup>

Nucleus: The shape of the nucleus is variable and can be bilobed, multilobed, indented, or folded. May demonstrate a typical “butterfly shape” appearance.

Cytoplasm: The hypergranular variant of APL is characterized by numerous promyelocytes with abundant abnormal, coarse, and dense granulation. The granules stain light pink to reddish-purple and heavily cover and obscure the nucleus of the cell. In the microgranular variant, the abnormal promyelocyte cells demonstrate a lack of granulation but often have abnormal bi-lobed nuclei.

Cells may contain characteristic multiple or bundles of auer rods (light pink) which the cells are then termed “Faggot cells.”

The granules in the neoplastic promyelocytes have procoagulant activity. Because of this, Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC) is associated as a complication of APL. Coagulation studies including fibrinogen and DDimer measurement can aid in the diagnosis of DIC in these patients.

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## **References:**

1. Bentley G, Leclair SJ. Acute Myeloid Leukemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 500-21.
2. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.

# 75

# Cytochemical Testing

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Cytochemistry involves staining cells *in vitro* to visualize certain cellular components that will help determine the lineage of the cell. After staining, cells are examined microscopically.<sup>1</sup>

---

## **Myeloperoxidase (MPO)**

MPO is an enzyme that is found in the primary granules of all granulocytes and monocytes and not present in lymphocytes. MPO is useful for differentiating between ALL and AML blasts.<sup>2,3</sup>

### **Results:**<sup>2,3</sup>

Granulocytes, Myeloblasts, Auer rods: Positive

Monocytes: Negative to weak positive

Lymphocytes: Negative

---

## **Sudan Black B**

Stains lipids present in the primary and secondary granules of granulocytes and monocyte lysosomes. Similar to MPO, it is useful for differentiating between AML and ALL but it is less specific.<sup>1,3</sup>

**Results:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Granulocytes, Myeloblasts: Positive

Monocytes: Negative to weakly positive

Lymphocytes: Negative

---

## Nonspecific Esterases (Alpha-naphthyl acetate esterase)

An enzymatic stain that is used to differentiate granulocytes from monocytes. The stain is considered nonspecific because other cells may also be stained.<sup>1-3</sup>

**Results:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Monocytes: Diffusely positive (Positivity can be inhibited by sodium fluoride)

Granulocytes: Negative

Lymphocytes: Negative (Except T lymphocytes which show focal positivity)

---

## Specific Esterase (Chloroacetate esterase)

An enzymatic stain that is specific for granulocytes.<sup>1-3</sup>

**Results:**<sup>1-3</sup>

Granulocytes (Neutrophils), Myeloblasts, Auer rods: Positive

Monocytes: Negative to weak positive

---

## Periodic Acid Schiff (PAS)

PAS stains glycogen related compounds.<sup>3</sup> PAS is useful for the identification of lymphoid cells.

### Results:<sup>1</sup>

Leukemic erythroblasts: Positive (normal erythroblasts are not positive)

Lymphoblasts: Block positivity

---

## Leukocyte Alkaline Phosphatase (LAP)

LAP is an enzyme present in the secondary granules of neutrophils and not present in eosinophils or basophils. LAP is useful for distinguishing between chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) from other conditions that show increased leukocyte counts.<sup>1</sup>

### Results:<sup>1</sup>

CML: Low LAP score

Leukemoid Reactions: High LAP score

---

## Acid Phosphatase

An enzyme that is present in the lysosomes of normal leukocytes.<sup>1</sup>

### Results:<sup>1</sup>

T cell ALL: Positive

Hairy cells: Positive

Hairy cells also show positivity for tartrate resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP) whereas other cells would be inhibited by TRAP.<sup>1</sup>

---

## Terminal Deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TdT)

TdT is a DNA polymerase found in immature cells.<sup>1</sup> Results are useful in identifying lymphoblastic leukemias.

### Results:<sup>1</sup>

Immature lymphocytes (ALL): Positive

---

**Table 1. Cytochemistry Staining for ALL and AML Subgroups.<sup>1-5</sup>**

Acute Leukemia Subgroup	MPO	Sudan Black B	Nonspecific Esterase	Specific Esterase	PAS
<b>ALL</b>	-	-	±	-	Block +
<b>AML</b>	+	+	-	+	±
<b>AMML</b>	+	+	+	+	-
<b>AMoL</b>	-	±	+	-	-
<b>AEL</b>	+	+	±	+	+
<b>AMkL</b>	-	-	±	+	+
<b>APL</b>	+	+	±	+	-

ALL = Acute lymphoblastic leukemia

AML = Acute myeloid leukemia

AMML = Acute myelomonocytic leukemia

AMoL = Acute monoblastic and monocytic leukemia

AEL = Acute Erythroid Leukemia

AMkL = Acute megakaryoblastic leukemia

APL = Acute promyelocytic leukemia

+ = Positive

- = Negative

± = Can be positive or negative

## References:

1. McKenzie SB. Introduction to hematopoietic neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 424-45.
2. Roquiz W, Gandhi P, Kini AR. Acute leukemias. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 543-60.
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4. Bentley G, Leclair SJ. Acute Myeloid Leukemias. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 500-21.
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# Flow Cytometry, Cytogenetics & Molecular Genetics

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## Classification of Leukemia

The classification of Acute Leukemia relies on the use of a variety of laboratory results, including morphology, immunophenotyping, genetic features, and clinical features. Classification allows for appropriate disease management, treatment, prognosis, and monitoring to occur. The laboratory is crucial in this aspect. The following is a brief summary of the type of laboratory testing involved in the classification of Acute Leukemia in addition to what has already been discussed.

## Flow Cytometry

Flow Cytometry, also known as immunophenotyping, is a technique that can be used to help determine a cell's lineage based on cell markers (e.g Cluster of Differentiation/CD Markers) present and the stage of maturation of a cell.<sup>1</sup>

### **Principle:**

Monoclonal antibodies with fluorescent labels that are specific for the surface antigen of interest are incubated with the sample. Samples are taken up by the flow cytometer and injected into a stream of sheath fluid to allow cells to be positioned centrally, this process is called hydrodynamic focusing. A laser is directed at the cells and the bound antibodies fluoresce. Fluorescence detectors are used to detect the fluorescence and a scatter graph is produced based on the antibodies bound.<sup>2</sup> Other properties such as light scatter (in the forward and side direction) are combined with fluorescence intensity measurements to distinguish cell populations.

Flow cytometry can be used to help determine what cells are present to help diagnose acute leukemias and other hematological disorders.

**Table 1. Common Surface Markers for Blood Cells.<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Cell Lineage</b>	<b>Surface Markers</b>
<b>Immature Cells</b>	CD34, CD117
<b>Granulocytes, Monocytes</b>	CD13, CD14 ,CD15, CD33
<b>Erythrocytes</b>	CD71, Glycophorin A
<b>Megakaryocytes</b>	CD41, CD42, CD61
<b>T Lymphocytes</b>	CD2,CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8
<b>B Lymphocytes</b>	CD19, CD20, CD22

---

## Cytogenetics

Cytogenetics involve the identification of abnormal karyotypes which may be characteristic to a related disorder.<sup>1</sup>

### Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH)

FISH is a molecular method that is a cytogenetic tool that is used to detect chromosomal abnormalities such as translocations, deletions, inversion, and duplications.<sup>3</sup>

The method involves using a fluorescently labelled DNA or RNA probe that is complementary to a specific target sequence. After denaturing double stranded DNA to single stranded DNA, the labelled probe is allowed to incubate and hybridize with the DNA. After incubation, the sample is washed to remove any unbound probes and then a counterstain is added to assist examination. Samples are examined with a fluorescent microscope to look for any chromosomal abnormalities in the cells.<sup>3</sup>

# Molecular Genetics

Molecular genetics involve the use of molecular techniques to identify specific genetic sequences and mutations that can be characteristic for a diagnosis.<sup>1</sup>

## Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

PCR is commonly used to amplify a specific target sequence such a mutation.<sup>4</sup>

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## References:

1. McKenzie SB. Introduction to hematopoietic neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 424-45.
2. Czader M. Flow cytometric analysis in hematologic disorders. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 543-60.3. Vance GH. Cytogenetics. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p. 498-512.
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XIII

# WHITE BLOOD CELLS: MATURE LYMPHOID NEOPLASMS

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## Introduction to Mature Lymphoid Neoplasms

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These group of disorders are also known as lymphoproliferative disorders and involve the clonal proliferation of mature lymphocytes.<sup>1</sup> The proliferation of these cells causes the formation of lymphomas and leukemias.<sup>2</sup>

As with acute leukemia, there are also a variety of factors that can lead to the development of these disorders:<sup>3</sup>

1. Acquired mutations leading to altered oncogene and tumor suppressor gene functions.
2. Inherited immunodeficiency syndromes that are associated with these neoplasms
3. Environmental factors that can lead to the development of neoplasms (e.g. viral and bacterial infections)

The 2008 WHO Classification categorizes the related disorders based on the type of cell that is involved (B or T cell).<sup>4</sup>

### **List of Mature B cell Neoplasms as per WHO 2008:<sup>4</sup>**

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Hairy Cell Leukemia

Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia (lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma)

Plasma cell neoplasms

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

Plasma cell myeloma/multiple myeloma

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**Note:** WHO 2008 lists additional disorders under mature B-cell neoplasms and as well has mature T-cell neoplasms. Only those listed above will be discussed in this eBook.

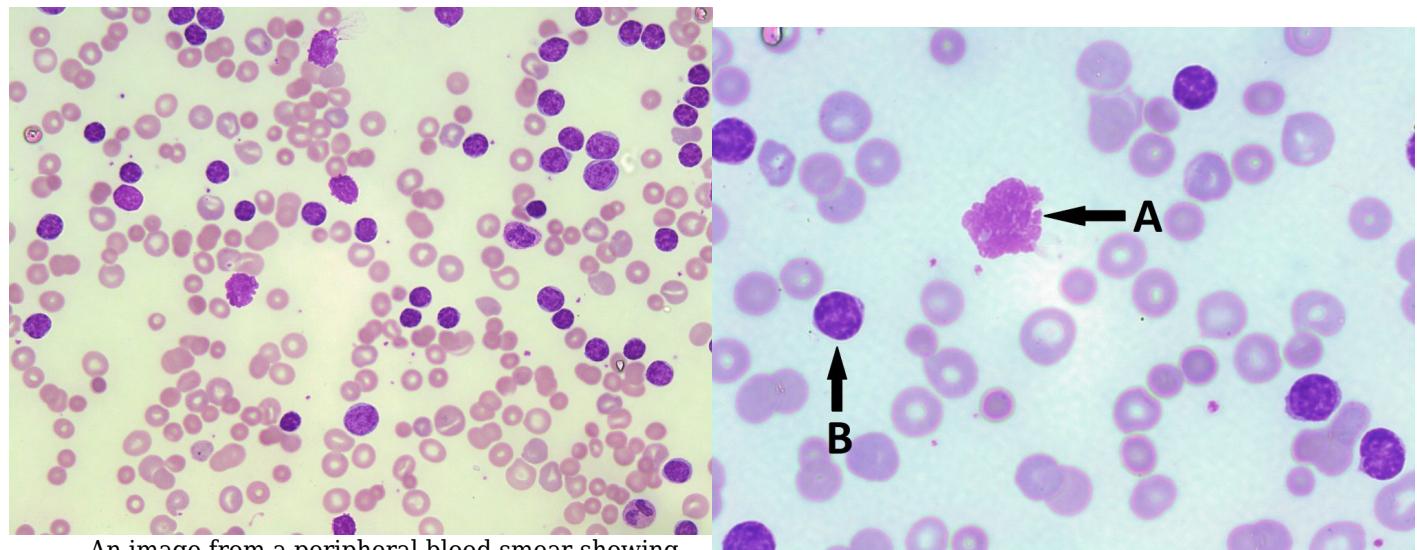
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3. Craig F. Mature lymphoid neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematoloy. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 535-56.
4. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.

# Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

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An image from a peripheral blood smear showing numerous small mature lymphocytes and smudge cells seen in a patient with CLL. 50X oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3SQ8QZ8C>

An image from a CLL peripheral blood smear showing a smudge cell (A) and mature small lymphocytes (B). 100x oil magnification. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3D J58X9R>

## Cell Features:<sup>1-4</sup>

Abundant small mature small lymphocytes

Scant Cytoplasm

Condensed/clumped chromatin (often described as “soccer ball” or “parched earth” appearance)

## Cause:<sup>1-4</sup>

A mature B cell neoplasm with no specific agent or cause. Cytogenetic findings show relation to trisomy 12 and other chromosomal deletions.

**Age group affected:** Mainly older adults >50 years old.<sup>1,5,6</sup>

### Laboratory Features for CLL:<sup>1,2,6</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> Normochromic, Normocytic Anemia Normal to Decreased reticulocyte count Neutropenia Thrombocytopenia	<b>PBS:</b> Small mature lymphocytes Presence of smudge cells Platelet and granulocyte morphology is normal	<b>BM:</b> Lymphocytic infiltration, reduced numbers of normal hematopoietic cells
<b>Immunologic markers:</b> CD5, CD19, CD20, CD23	<b>Other useful tests:</b> FISH PCR Associated with hypogammaglobulinemia	

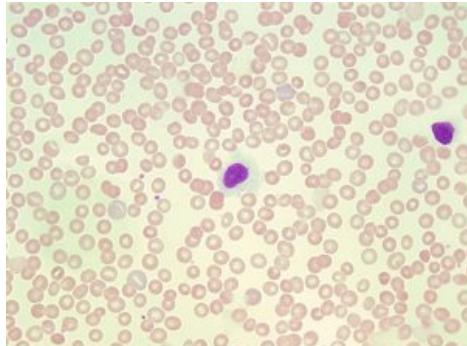
## References:

1. Holmer LD, Bueso-Ramos CE. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia and related lymphoproliferative disorders. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 440-65.
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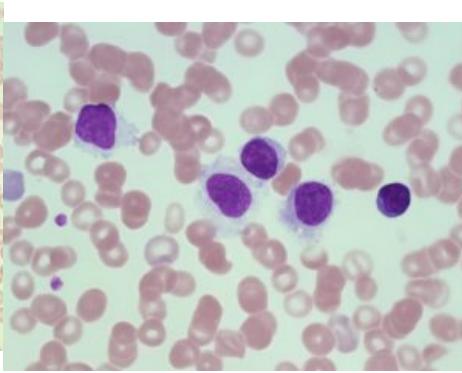
# 79

## Hairy Cell Leukemia (HCL)

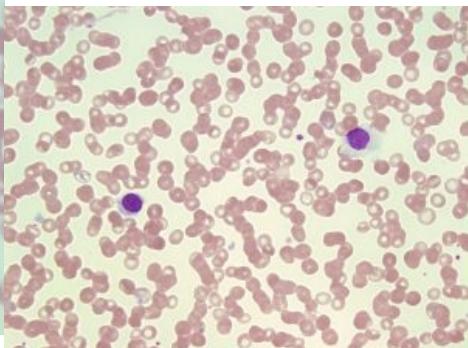
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating two hairy cells with abundant pale blue cytoplasm, small cytoplasmic projections, and mature-looking nucleus giving the cell a “fried egg” appearance. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3ZG6G> P2C



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating the different forms of hairy cells. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3610W71F>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a form of hairy cell with hairy cytoplasmic projections (left) and a different form of hairy cell with abundant pale blue cytoplasm (right). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R32805D72>

### Cell Features:<sup>1-4</sup>

Two types of characteristic B lymphocyte morphologies can be seen in Hairy Cell Leukemia. Hairy cells are small to medium sized cells with either serrated cytoplasmic projections giving it a “hairy” appearance or more abundant pale blue cytoplasm giving it a “fried egg” appearance. The nucleus can be oval or indented, lacks nucleoli, and has an evenly stained mature chromatin pattern.

### Cause:<sup>1,5,6</sup>

An indolent clonal mature B cell disorder has been associated with the BRAF -V600E mutation.

**Age Group Affected:**<sup>2,6</sup>

Middle-aged adults (median age of 55 years).

**Laboratory Features for HCL:**<sup>1,2,4,6</sup>

<b>CBCD:</b> Pancytopenia Relative lymphocytosis	<b>Peripheral Blood Smear:</b> Hairy Cells ( $\pm$ Fried egg appearance)	<b>Bone Marrow:</b> Dry Tap due to fibrosis (Aspirate) Hypocellular
<b>Immunologic markers:</b> CD19, CD20, CD22, CD25, CD123, Annexin A1	<b>Other useful tests:</b> Tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP) stain positive	

**References:**

1. Grever MR, Abdel-Wahab O, Andritsos LA, Banerji V, Barrientos J, Blachly JS, et al. Consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and management of patients with classic hairy cell leukemia. *Blood* [Internet]. 2016 Feb 2 [cited 2018 Jun 22];129(1):553-61. Available from: <http://www.bloodjournal.org/cgi/doi/10.1182/blood-2016-01-689422>
2. Turgeon ML. Malignant myeloid and monocytic disorders and plasma cell dyscrasias. In: Clinical hematology: theory and procedures. 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1999. p. 275-92.
3. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.
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5. Troussard X, Cornet E. Hairy cell leukemia 2018: Update on diagnosis, risk-stratification, and treatment. *Am J Hematol* [Internet]. 2017 Dec 7 [cited 2018 Jun 25];92(12):1382-90. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5698705/>
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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4198068/>

# 80

## Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia

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### Features:

Commonly characterized by an IgM monoclonal gammopathy. Increased IgM may also result in cryoglobulinemia. Deposits of IgM into tissues and organs can result in intestinal dysfunction, clotting, and neuropathic complications.<sup>1</sup>

### Cause:<sup>1,2</sup>

Genetic mutations

Inherited associations

Following viral infections (e.g. Hepatitis C).

**Age Group Affected:** 60-70 years old, slightly more predominant in males.<sup>1,2</sup>

### Laboratory Results for Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia:<sup>1,2</sup>

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**CBC:**

WBC: Increased (But lower than CLL)

**PBS:**

Increased number of small lymphocytes and maybe plasmacytoid lymphocytes.

**BM:**

Infiltration of small lymphocytes  
Variable number of plasma cells and plasmacytoid lymphocytes.

**Immunologic Markers:**

CD19, CD20, CD22, CD25, CD27, CD38, CD79a

**Other Tests:**

Monoclonal Paraprotein IgM: Positive

## References:

1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.
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## 81

# Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS)

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## Features:

MGUS is characterized as having an increase in serum M protein, clonal plasma cells, a lack of CRAB symptoms (hyperCalcemia, Renal failure, Anemia, or lytic Bone lesions), and no diagnosis of any other B cell lymphoproliferative disorder.<sup>1,2</sup>

Patients are asymptomatic and present with no other physical abnormalities.<sup>1,3</sup>

## Cause:

No specific cause has been linked to the development of MGUS.<sup>1</sup>

**Age Group Affected:** >50 years old.<sup>1,3</sup>

## Laboratory Results for MGUS:<sup>1,2</sup>

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BM:	Immunologic Markers:	Other Tests:
Aspirates: Increased Plasma cells (<10%)	CD19, CD38, CD138	Protein electrophoresis
Biopsies: Slightly increased numbers of plasma cells with minimal morphological abnormalities		Immunofixation Flow cytometry FISH

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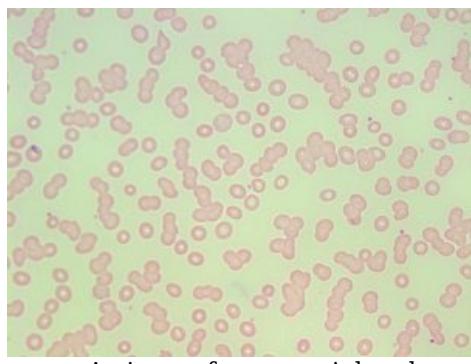
## References:

1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.
2. Craig F. Mature lymphoid neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 535-56.
3. Rajkumar SV. Multiple myeloma: 2016 update on diagnosis, risk-stratification, and management. Am J Hematol [Internet]. 2016 Jul [cited 2018 Jun 27];91(7):719-34. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5291298/>

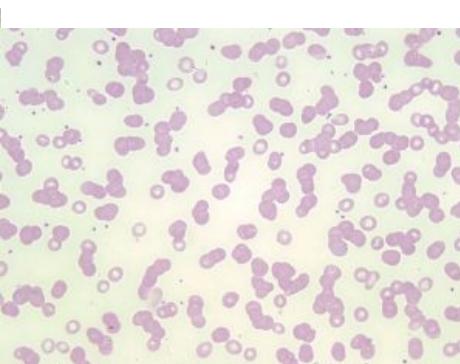
## 82

# Plasma Cell Myeloma (Multiple Myeloma)

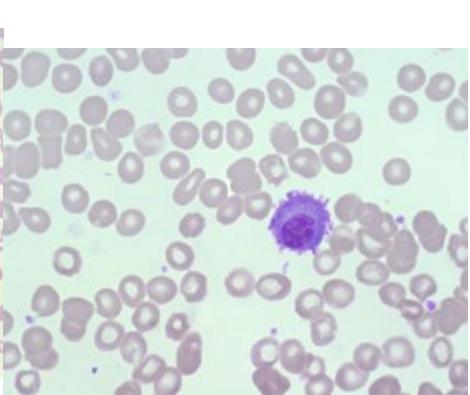
MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO



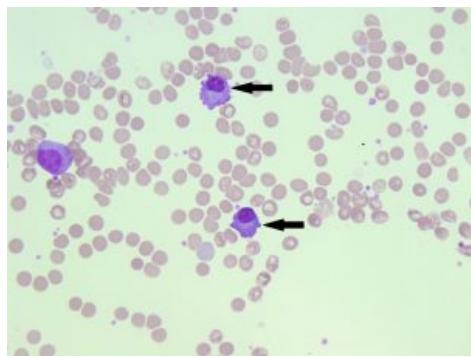
An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating rouleaux, which is a characteristic finding of plasma cell myeloma. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3833ND55>



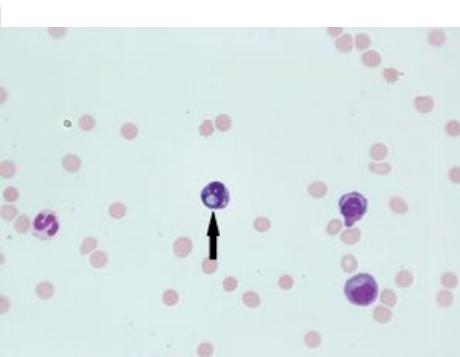
An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating rouleaux, which is a characteristic finding of plasma cell myeloma. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3CZ32M1F>



An image from a bone marrow direct smear in a patient with plasma cell myeloma demonstrating a plasma cell. Note the perinuclear clearing surrounding the nucleus, and basophilic cytoplasm. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3VM43C6D>



An image from a bone marrow direct smear from a patient with plasma cell myeloma demonstrating two plasma cells

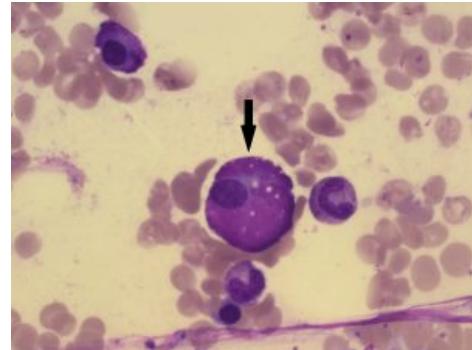


An image from a fluid cytospin slide showing a mott cell (indicated with an arrow) with



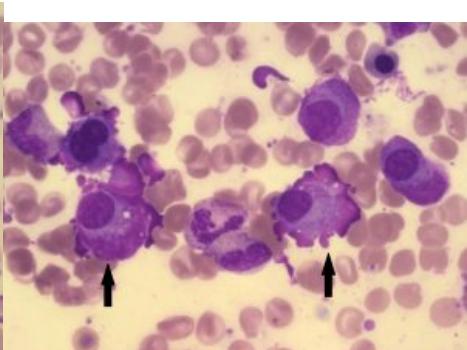
An image from a fluid cytospin slide demonstrating a mott cell (indicated with an arrow) with

(indicated by arrows). 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3348G>  
X60



An image from a bone marrow direct smear from a patient with plasma cell myeloma demonstrating a large plasma cell variant known as a flame cell (indicated by an arrow). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3CF9JN7P>

round globules (Russell bodies). Mott cells may also be seen in plasma cell myeloma bone marrow smears. 60X oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3RV0DG30>



An image from a bone marrow direct smear from a patient with plasma cell myeloma demonstrating a large plasma cell variant known as a flame cell (indicated by arrows). 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3416TF3X>

round globules (Russell bodies). Mott cells may also be seen in plasma cell myeloma bone marrow smears. 60X oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta,  
<https://doi.org/10.7939/R31C1TX1V>

## Features:

This disorder is characterized by an increase in M protein (monoclonal gammopathy) in the serum and/or urine with the presence of clonal plasma cells in the bone marrow.<sup>1</sup>

Unlike MGUS, patients with plasma cell myeloma often present with CRAB symptoms (hyperCalcemia, Renal failure, Anemia, and lytic Bone lesions). Additional features include osteolytic bone lesions without new bone formation.<sup>1,2</sup> Some patients may be asymptomatic (smoldering multiple myeloma) but other findings of plasma cell myeloma may still be found.<sup>1,3</sup>

Due to bone damage, extramedullary hematopoiesis is a common finding.<sup>1</sup>

**Cause:**

Most cases of plasma cell myeloma have developed from MGUS.<sup>2</sup>

Other causes include infections, exposure to toxic substances, and other chronic diseases which may result in a long term antigenic stimulation.<sup>1</sup>

Cytogenetic abnormalities have been found to be associated with the development of multiple myeloma.<sup>3</sup>

**Age Group Affected:** >50 years old, more common in males.<sup>1</sup>

**Plasma Cell Morphology:**

Aside from the characteristic appearance of plasma cells, morphologic variants of plasma cells are often seen in Plasma Cell Myeloma. These include bi-lobed plasma cells, flame cells, and mott cells.

**Flame Cells:**

A reactive plasma cell that has reddish-purple cytoplasms. Colour of the cytoplasm is caused by glycoprotein and ribosomes. The presence of flame cells has been associated with IgA multiple myeloma.<sup>4</sup>

**Mott Cells:**

Are plasma cells with multiple round inclusions in the cytoplasm. The inclusions are termed “Russell bodies” and are composed of immunoglobulins.<sup>3</sup>

## Laboratory Results for Plasma Cell Myeloma:<sup>1,2</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> Cytopenias due to decreased bone marrow hematopoiesis RBC: Decreased HB: Decreased	<b>PBS:</b> Rouleaux formation (Due to M protein) Rare circulating plasma cells Normocytic Normochromic	<b>BM:</b> Lytic regions Plasmacytosis (>10%) Bi-lobed plasma cells, Flame cells, and/or Mott cells may be seen. Biopsy: interstitial clusters of plasma cells Aspirates: shows various heterogeneous forms of plasma cells in aggregates or sheets.
<b>Immunologic Markers:</b> CD38, CD79a, CD138	<b>Other Tests:</b> Serum FLC: Increased Bence-Jones proteinuria FISH Protein electrophoresis Immunofixation FLC assays Cytogenetics	

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## Reactive Plasmacytosis:

An increase in the number plasma cells and immunoglobulins can also be the result of a non-malignant condition. Bacterial and viral infections (e.g infections mononucleosis, tuberculosis) can evoke a strong antigenic response and lead to an increase in plasma cells in the peripheral blood.<sup>4</sup> The reactive process should NOT be confused with plasma cell myeloma.

Unlike plasma cell myeloma, there are no findings of CRAB symptoms or clonal plasma cells in the bone marrow. Plasma cells may be increased in the bone marrow, but not above 10% . An increase in M proteins and plasma cells (outside the bone marrow) may be found.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.

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XIV

# WHITE BLOOD CELLS: MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS (MPN)

# 83

## Introduction to Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs)

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MPNs are a group of clonal disorders that involve the proliferation and accumulation of one or more myeloid cell lines (erythrocytes, granulocytes, or platelets). These disorders are caused by genetic mutations in hematopoietic stem cells.<sup>1,2</sup>

MPNs are commonly seen in middle age adults but some may occur during childhood.<sup>1</sup>

The 2008 WHO classification system lists the following disorders under this category:<sup>1</sup>

Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML)

Polycythemia Vera (PV)

Essential Thrombocythemia (ET)

Primary Myelofibrosis (PMF)

**Note:** WHO 2008 lists additional disorders under MPNs but only the ones listed above will be discussed in this eBook.

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## References:

1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of

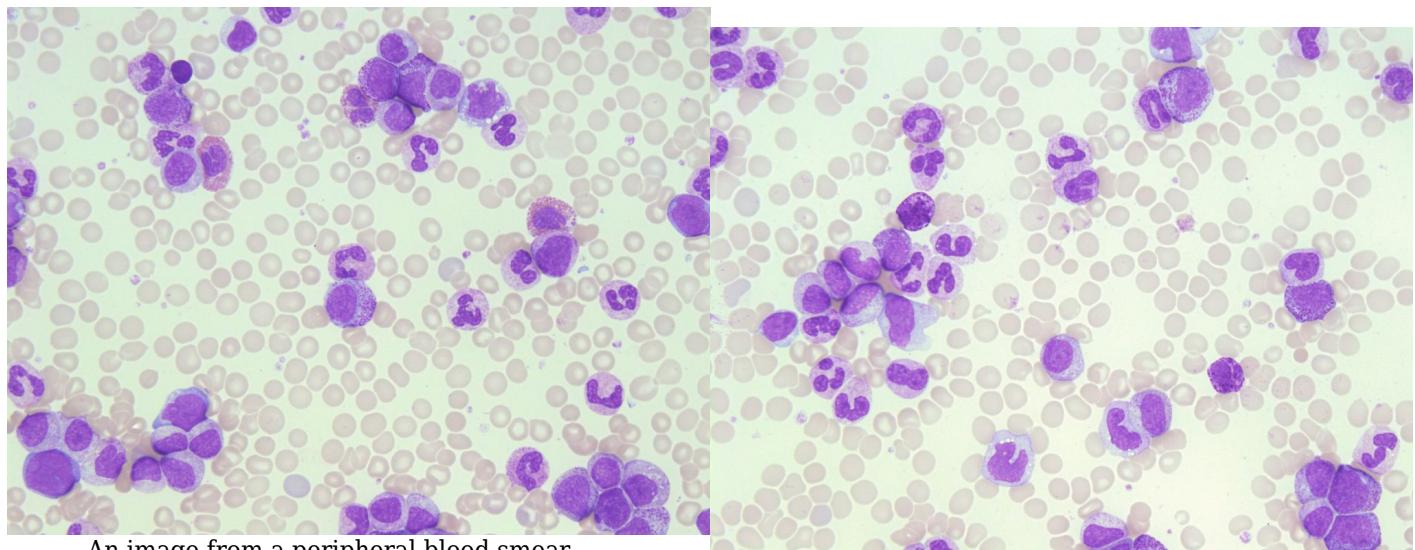
Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.

2. Randolph TR. Myeloproliferative Neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 450-78.

# 84

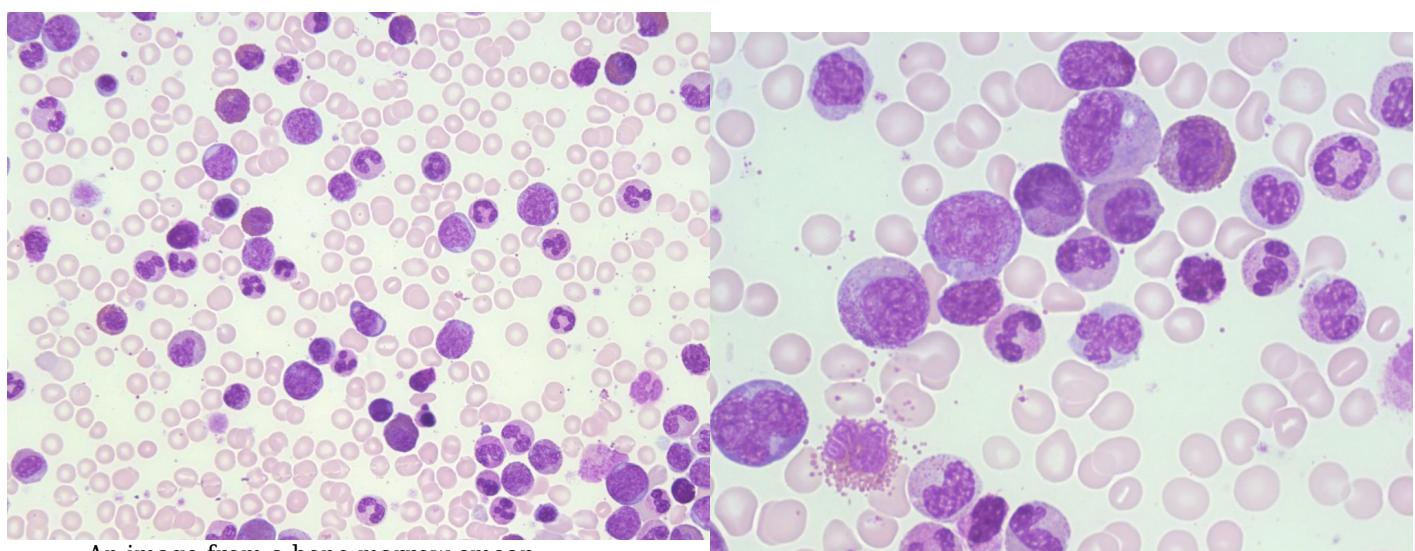
## Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML)

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An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating myeloid precursors and a few blasts seen in chronic myelogenous leukemia. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3NZ8155H>

An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating a neutrophilia and myeloid precursors seen in CML. 500x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3SQ8QZ9V>



An image from a bone marrow smear demonstrating myeloid hyperplasia and a few blasts seen in chronic myelogenous leukemia. Very few

An image from a bone marrow smear demonstrating myeloid hyperplasia in CML. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of

erythroid precursors are present. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R38P5VR48>

Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34X54Z0H>

**Affected Cell Line:** Myeloid cell line (platelets and granulocytes are increased, however granulocyte production is most prominent).<sup>1,2</sup>

**Mutation:** Philadelphia Chromosome, t(9;22), resulting in the *BCR-ABL1* fusion gene.<sup>3</sup> The gene is characterized by a translocation between chromosomes 9 and 22 which is expressed as t(9;22).<sup>1</sup>

**Age Group Affected:** Seen commonly in middle aged adults, 46 to 53 years old.<sup>1</sup>

### Clinical Features:

The onset of CML is insidious and in some patients may be asymptomatic.<sup>3</sup> Other patients may have complications associated with frequent infections, infiltration of leukocytes, bleeding, weight loss, fever, fatigue, and anemia.<sup>1,4</sup>

Extramedullary hematopoiesis may occur, resulting in organomegaly.<sup>1</sup>

### The course of CML occurs in three phases:

#### 1. Chronic Phase

Peripheral blood: leukocytosis (usually  $>100 \times 10^9/L$ ), thrombocytosis (Up to  $>1000 \times 10^9/L$ ).<sup>3</sup>

Bone Marrow: hypercellularity due to increased granulopoiesis. Megakaryocytes are increased and may appear small and hypolobulated.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Accelerated Phase

The bone marrow is hypercellular and often myelodysplastic features are seen. Additionally, there is an increased number of myeloblasts, and a dropping platelet count resulting in thrombocytopenia. Total white blood cell count continues to increase.<sup>3,4</sup>

### 3. Blast Phase (Acute Leukemia)

CML has transformed into an acute leukemia, either ALL or AML, and prognosis becomes poor even with treatment.<sup>4</sup>

Blast Phase is diagnosed when either: Bone marrow shows  $\geq 20\%$  blasts or when extramedullary blast proliferation is present.<sup>3,4</sup>

### **Laboratory Findings for CML:<sup>1,3,4</sup>**

<b>CBC:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC: Increased (Average: $>100 \times 10^9/L$ ) PLT: Increased to Normal to Decreased (depending on phase) Hb: Decreased RETIC: Normal to Decreased	<b>PBS:</b> +/- NRBCs Neutrophilia, Eosinophilia, Basophilia +/- Micromegakaryocytes Left shift Dysplastic features may be present in granulocytes and platelets	<b>BM:</b> M:E ratio: Increased Hypercellular Myeloid Hyperplasia Megakaryocytes: Increased, may be dysplastic Fibrosis in later stages
<b>Other Tests:</b> LAP: Decreased Cytogenetics Hyperuricemia Uricosuria (May lead to gout) PLT Function: Abnormal		

## **Leukemoid Reaction**

A leukemoid reaction is a response to different stress events such as infections, inflammation, hemorrhage, or other malignant disorders that has a similar presentation to CML where there is an increase in the number of white blood cells and a left shift.<sup>4,5</sup>

A leukemoid reaction should NOT be confused with CML.

**Table 1. Comparison of CML and Leukemoid Reaction.<sup>4,5</sup>**

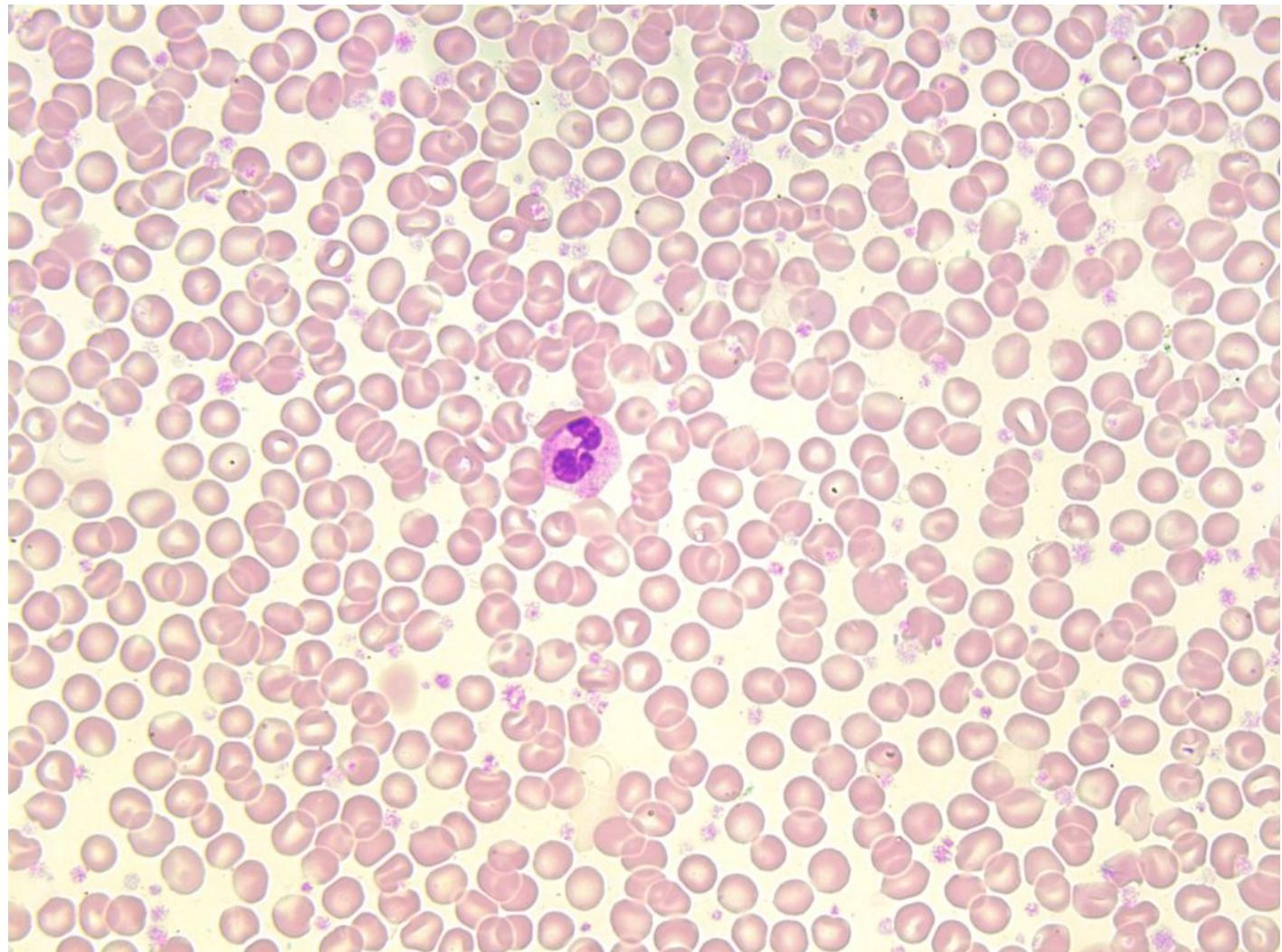
<b>Laboratory Finding</b>	<b>CML</b>	<b>Leukemoid Reaction</b>
<b>PBS</b>	Left shift (Very Immature) Neutrophilia Eosinophilia Basophilia Dysplastic Features	Left shift (mild) Neutrophilia Absent eosinophilia Absent Basophilia Toxic changes are often present
<b>WBC</b>	20-500 x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	Rarely >60 x10 <sup>9</sup> /L
<b>PLT</b>	Increased	Normal
<b>Anemia</b>	Present	Absent
<b>LAP Score</b>	Low	High
<b>Chromosomal Abnormality</b>	Philadelphia Chromosome/BCR-ABL1	None

## References:

1. Randolph TR. Myeloproliferative neoplasms. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p.561-90.
2. Schaub CR. Chronic Myeloproliferative disorders I: chronic myelogenous leukemia. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 371-84.
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# 85 Polycythemia Vera (PV)

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An image from a peripheral blood smear showing a thick smear with an abundant red blood cells and platelets often seen in polycythemia vera, 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3WH2DW3X>

**Affected Cell Line:** Mainly erythrocytes, though tri-lineage growth (“panmyelosis”) is seen in the bone marrow.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Mutation:

*JAK 2 exon 12* and *JAK 2 V617F* gene mutations have been associated with PV.<sup>1,3</sup>

**Age Group Affected:** Average age of diagnosis is 60 years old.<sup>3</sup>

## Features:

PV involves the proliferation of erythrocytes independent of normal erythropoiesis regulating mechanisms (e.g. erythropoietin). There is also a proliferation of granulocytes and megakaryocytes (resulting in “panmyelosis”) but the proliferation of erythrocytes is most prominent.<sup>3-5</sup>

Unlike CML, PV does not readily transform into acute leukemia but may result in fibrosis over time.<sup>3</sup> Splenomegaly is commonly seen.

## Laboratory Findings for PV:<sup>2,4,5</sup>

### CBC:

RBC: Increased  
WBC: Increased  
PLT: Increased  
Hb: Increased  
Hct: Increased  
MCV: Increased  
RETIC: Normal to increased

### PBS:

RBCs are normochromic/normocytic, though iron stores may be exhausted, leading to hypo/micro RBCs  
PBS appears crowded with RBCs (thick smears are due to the elevated Hct)  
A left shift and basophilia may be seen

### BM:

M:E ratio: Normal to decreased  
Hypercellular due to increased proliferation in all cell lines  
Megakaryocytes are increased in number and may be enlarged and exhibit lobulated nuclei  
Iron stores: decreased to absent

### Other Tests:

Erythropoietin: Low or normal

## Secondary Polycythemia

Secondary polycythemia is a condition that occurs when there is an increased production of erythrocytes due to an increased level of erythropoietin. Bone marrow shows an erythroid hyperplasia.<sup>5</sup>

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Causes include: Hypoxia, Inappropriate use of erythropoietin, Familial polycythemia, neonatal polycythemia.<sup>5</sup>

## Relative Polycythemia

Polycythemia that occurs due to a decrease in plasma volume, resulting in an elevated hematocrit, RBC count, and hemoglobin. There is no actual increased production of erythrocytes.<sup>5</sup> The decrease in plasma volume is often the result of dehydration.

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Hemoglobin and hematocrit appear increased but other CBC parameters such as white blood cell and platelet counts are normal. The bone marrow is also normal in terms of iron stores, cellularity and number of megakaryocytes.<sup>5</sup>

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**Table 1. Comparison between the different Polycythemias.<sup>5</sup>**

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5. Randolph TR. Myeloproliferative neoplasms. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 450-78.

# 86

## Essential Thrombocythemia (ET)

MICHELLE TO AND VALENTIN VILLATORO

An interactive or media element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:  
<https://pressbooks.library.ualberta.ca/mlsci/?p=757>

*Image of peripheral blood smears showing a giant platelet (center) and an increase in the number of platelets seen in Essential Thrombocythemia. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta.*

*Image 1: 50x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3J09WK51>*

*Image 2: 60x oil immersion. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3X63BM52>*

**Affected Cell Line:** Megakaryocytes, Platelets.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Mutation:** JAK 2 V617F, CALR, and MPL gene mutations.<sup>1,3</sup>

**Age Group Affected:** Diagnosed most commonly at 50-60 years old.<sup>1</sup>

### Clinical Features:

Most patients are asymptomatic and present with a platelet count of  $\geq 450 \times 10^9/L$ .<sup>1</sup> Thrombosis, vascular occlusion, and bleeding problems are the most commonly associated complications. Despite having abundant platelets, they are often dysfunctional.

## Laboratory Findings for ET:<sup>1,4,5</sup>

<b>CBC:</b> WBC: Normal to Slightly Increased PLT: Increased (often 1000-5000 $\times 10^9/L$ ) Hb: Slightly Decreased Hct: Slightly Decreased MCV: Normal	<b>PBS:</b> RBCs, are normocytic and normochromic Marked thrombocytosis  <b>Abnormal platelet morphologies:</b> Giant, agranular, clumping, and irregularly shaped	<b>BM:</b> Hypercellular due to increased megakaryopoiesis Abnormal megakaryocyte morphology: Clusters, Enlarged, Hyperlobulated
<b>Other Tests:</b> Platelet function tests: abnormal		

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## Reactive Thrombocytosis

A non-malignant condition that involves an increased platelet count secondary to other conditions that result in an increase in platelet production. It is associated with infections and inflammatory processes.<sup>5</sup>

Reactive thrombocytosis can be differentiated from essential thrombocythemia by looking at the platelet count. Platelet count rarely reaches  $>1000 \times 10^9/L$  and platelet function tests are normal.<sup>5</sup>

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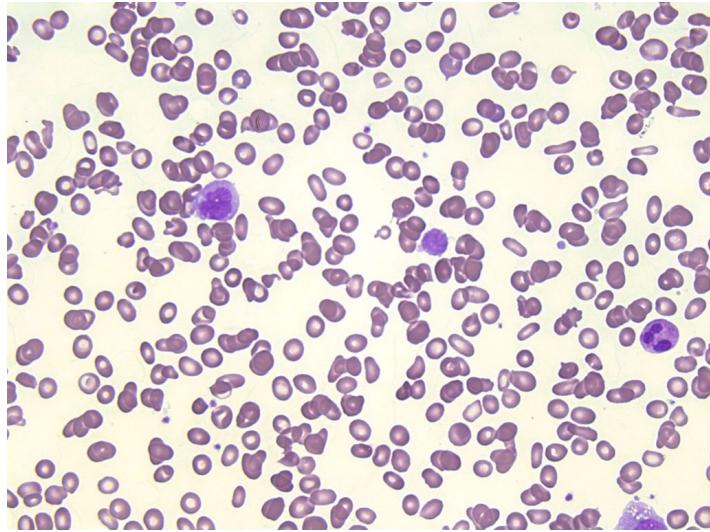
## References:

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2. Schaub CR. Chronic Myeloproliferative disorders I: chronic myelogenous leukemia. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 371-84.
3. Choi CW, Bang S-M, Jang S, Jung CW, Kim H-J, Kim HY, et al. Guidelines for the management of myeloproliferative neoplasms. Korean J Intern Med [Internet]. 2015 Nov 30 [cited 2018 Jul 9];30(6):771-88. Available from: <http://kjim.org/journal/view.php?doi=10.3904/kjim.2015.30.6.771>
4. Randolph TR. Myeloproliferative neoplasms. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p.561-90.

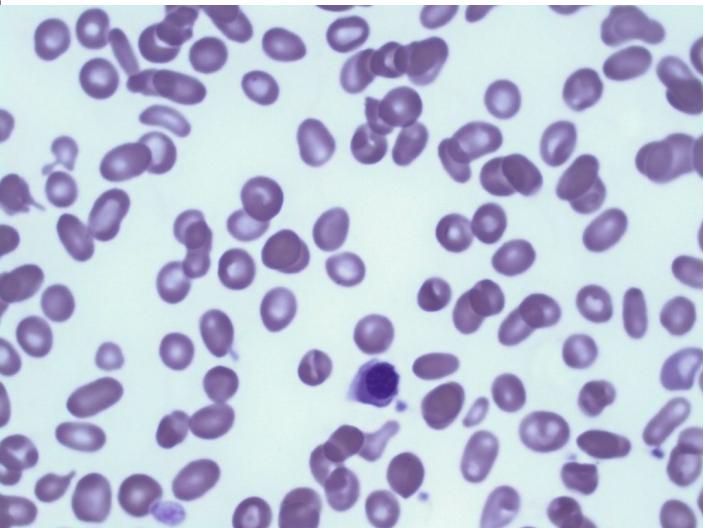
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# Primary Myelofibrosis (PMF)

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An image from a peripheral blood smear showing tears, elliptocytes, schistocytes, and a giant platelet seen in primary myelofibrosis. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3CJ88201>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing tears, elliptocytes, and schistocytes, and a nucleated red blood cell seen in primary myelofibrosis. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3416TF2F>

**Affected Cell Line:** Granulocytes and Megakaryocytes in the bone marrow resulting in secondary fibroblast stimulation and fibrotic desposition in the bone marrow.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Mutation:** JAK 2 V617F, CALR, and *MPL* gene mutations.<sup>1,3</sup>

**Age Group Affected:** >50 years old, occurs equally between males and females.<sup>4</sup>

**Features:**

Primary myelofibrosis is characterized by two stages:

### 1. Prefibrotic Stage

The bone marrow is hypercellular and shows minimal reticulin and fibrosis initially, with an increase in megakaryocytes and granulocytes.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Fibrotic Stage

Peripheral blood shows a characteristic **leukoerythroblastic picture** (immature granulocyte and erythrocyte precursors) with poikilocytosis, especially teardrop cells and elliptocytes.<sup>1</sup>

Bone marrows shows marked fibrosis.<sup>1</sup> Extramedullary hematopoiesis is often seen, with cells accumulating in the spleen, liver, and other organs.

### **Laboratory Findings for Primary Myelofibrosis:<sup>2,4,5</sup>**

<b>CBC:</b> <u>Early Stage:</u> RBC: Normal WBC: Increased PLT: Increased Hb: Normal	<b>PBS:</b> Platelets have a dysplastic morphology (Giant, agranular) May see micromegakaryocytes Variable poikilocytosis	<b>BM:</b> Often results in a dry tap Hypercellular Fibrosis of varying degrees (Marked fibrosis in later stages) Megakaryocyte aggregates Dysgranulopoiesis Dysmegakaryopoiesis
<b>Fibrotic Stage:</b> RBC: Decreased WBC:Decreased PLT: Decreased Hb: Decreased	<b>Fibrotic Stage:</b> Pancytopenia Leukoerythroblastic picture Teardrop cells Elliptocytes nRBCs	
<b>Other Tests:</b> PLT Function: Abnormal		

## References:

1. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Pileri SA, Stein H, et al. editors. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues Volume 2. 4th ed. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); 2008.

2. Schaub CR. Chronic Myeloproliferative disorders I: chronic myelogenous leukemia. In: Clinical hematology and fundamentals of hemostasis. 5th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company; 2009. p. 371-84.
3. Choi CW, Bang S-M, Jang S, Jung CW, Kim H-J, Kim HY, et al. Guidelines for the management of myeloproliferative neoplasms. Korean J Intern Med [Internet]. 2015 Nov 30 [cited 2018 Jul 9];30(6):771-88. Available from: <http://kjim.org/journal/view.php?doi=10.3904/kjim.2015.30.6.771>
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XV

# WHITE BLOOD CELLS: MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROMES (MDS)

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## Introduction to Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

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Myelodysplastic syndromes are a group of clonal disorders that result in cytopenias and defective cell maturation.<sup>1</sup> Morphology of cells during maturation show abnormalities, referred to as dysplasia.<sup>2</sup> Dysplastic features seen varies in terms of the types of dysplasia seen, and the cell lines affected. Progression toward acute leukemia is often seen later in the disease, leading to an increase in blasts seen in the bone marrow and peripheral blood.

**Age Group Affected:** Commonly age of diagnosis is 70 years old.<sup>1</sup>

**Affected Cell Line(s):** Can affect one, two, or all three hematopoietic cell lines (erythroid, myeloid, megakaryocyte).<sup>1</sup>

**Cause(s):**

Chromosomal abnormalities

Mutations in oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes

**General Laboratory Findings for MDS:**<sup>2</sup>

<b>PBS:</b>	<b>BM:</b>	<b>Other Tests:</b>
Anemia	Dysplastic hematopoietic precursors	Cytogenetic testing
Anisocytosis (Dimorphic)	Usually hypercellular (though hematopoiesis is ineffective)	FISH
Poikilocytosis	+/- Increased blasts	Iron Studies: Serum Iron: Normal to Increased Serum Ferritin: Normal to Increased TIBC: Decreased to Normal
Sideroblasts		
Dysplastic granulocytes		
Dysplastic thrombocytes		
+/- Increased blasts		

## References:

1. Rodak BF. Myelodysplastic syndromes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p.591-603.
2. Lawrence LW, Taylor SA. Myelodysplastic syndromes. In: Clinical laboratory hematology. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Pearson; 2015. p. 479-99.

# 89

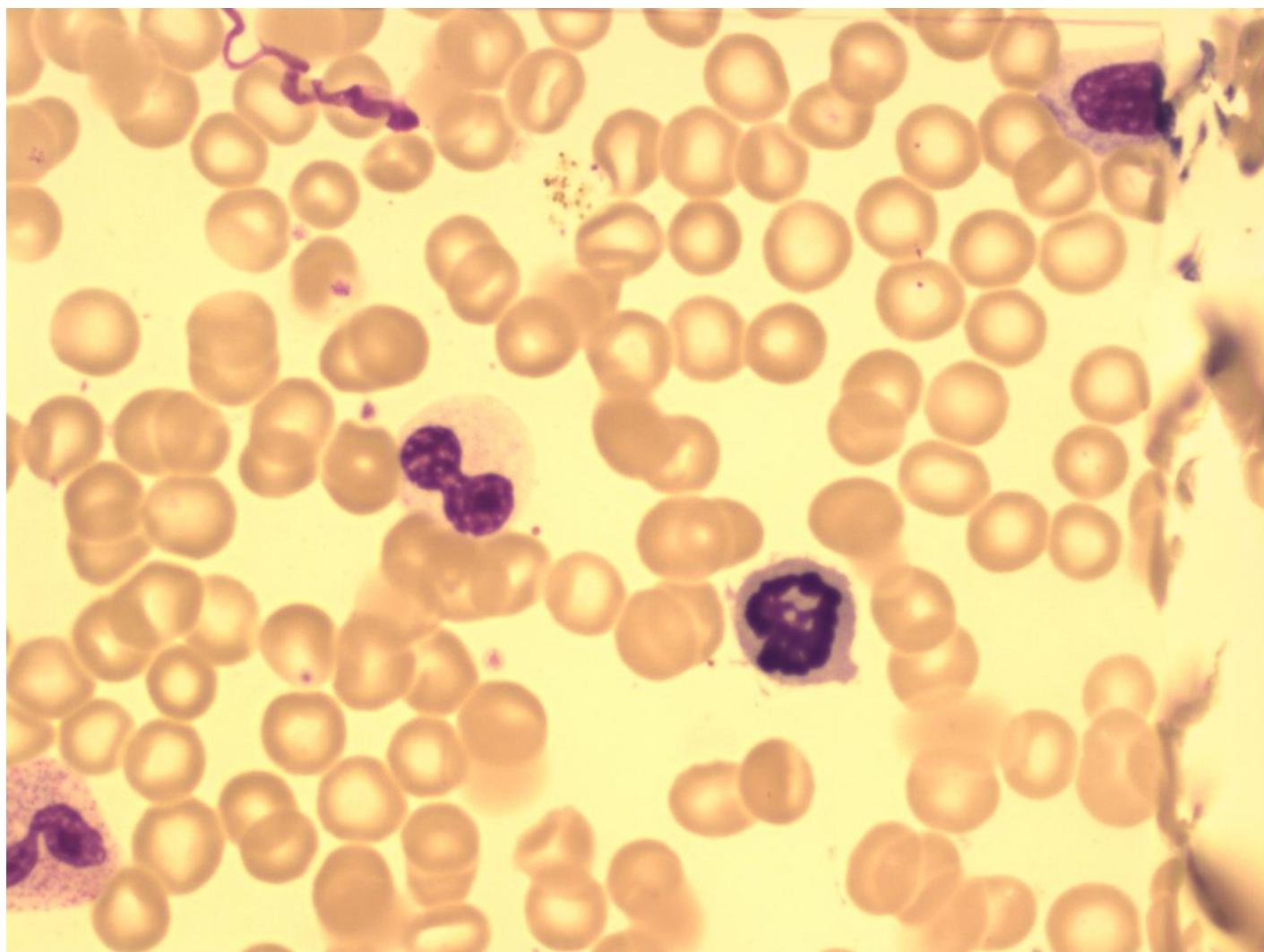
## MDS: Dyserythropoiesis, Dysmyelopoiesis & Dysmegakaryopoiesis

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As previously discussed, MDS is a clonal disorder that results in defective cell maturation and results in dysplastic changes. The dysplasia can be seen in both the peripheral blood and in the bone marrow. Dysplasia may be seen in one or more cell lines, and the types of dysplasia seen vary. Below are descriptions that may be seen, organized by cell lineage.

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### Dyserythropoiesis



An image from a bone marrow smear showing a hypogranular, hyposegmented neutrophil (center-left) and a mitotic figure that appears to be an erythroid precursor (center-right) seen in myelodysplastic syndrome. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R34M91S2D>

**Affected Cell line:** Erythroblasts.<sup>1-3</sup>

**Table 1. Dysplastic features found in MDS erythrocytes in the peripheral blood and bone marrow.**<sup>1-3</sup>

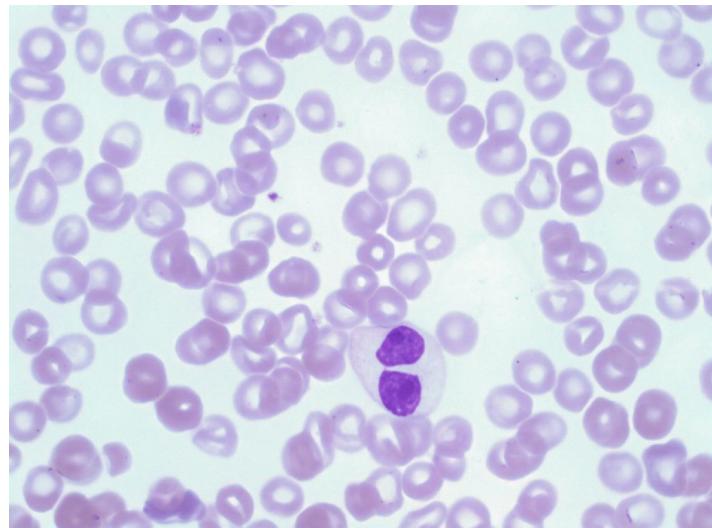
**PBS:**

Dimorphic Population  
Oval-macrocytes  
Hypochromic/Microcytic RBCs (with normal iron stores)  
Basophilic stippling  
Howell-Jolly bodies  
Siderocytes  
Decreased polychromasia

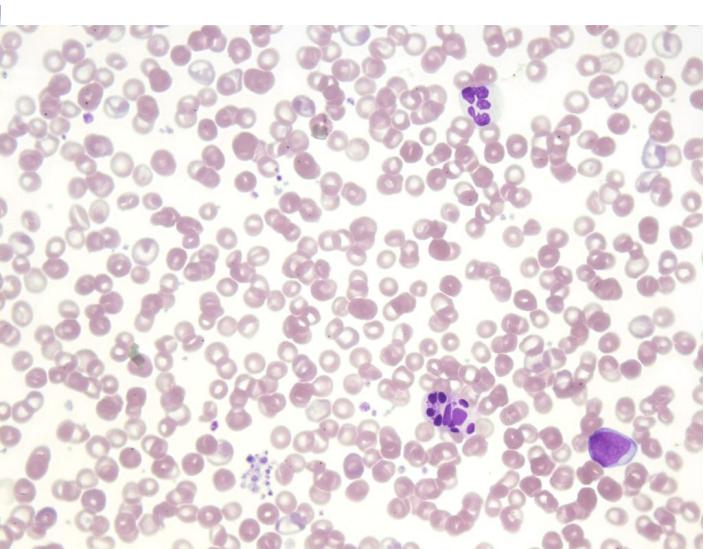
**BM:**

Multiple Nuclei  
Abnormal Nuclear shapes (budding, lobes, fragmentation, bridging)  
Megaloblastoid features  
Vacuolization  
Ringed Sideroblasts  
Abnormal staining of the cytoplasm (due to basophilic stippling and hemoglobin)

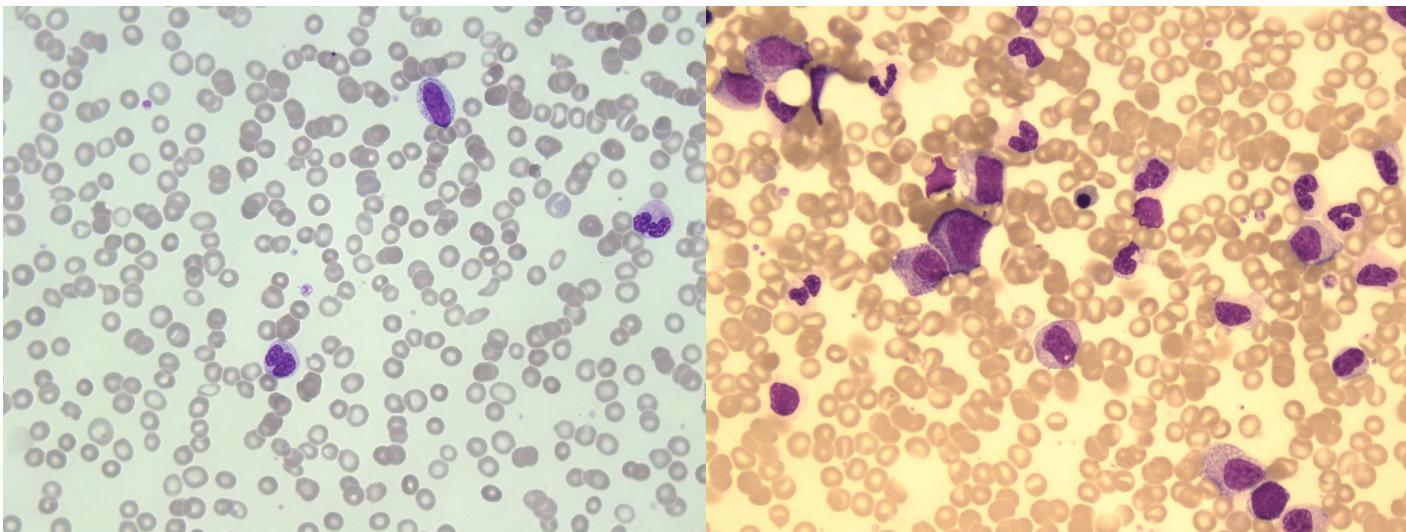
## Dysmyelopoiesis/Dysgranulopoiesis



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating a hyposegmented neutrophil with mature chromatin pattern and hypogranulation seen in a patient with MDS. 100x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3251G157>



An image from a peripheral blood smear demonstrating dysplastic features: a neutrophil (top) with hypersegmentation and hypogranulation, two neutrophils (bottom-right) undergoing karyorrhexis, and platelet clumping (bottom-left) seen in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3BK1750B>



An image from a peripheral blood smear showing hyposegmented neutrophils and a myeloid precursor seen in myelodysplastic syndrome. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3KP7V654>

An image from a bone marrow smear showing hypogranular neutrophils and hypogranular myeloid precursors seen in myelodysplastic syndrome. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R38C9RK5P>

**Affected Cell line:** Granulocytes.<sup>1-3</sup>

**Table 2. Dysplastic features found in MDS granulocytes in the peripheral blood and bone marrow.**<sup>1-3</sup>

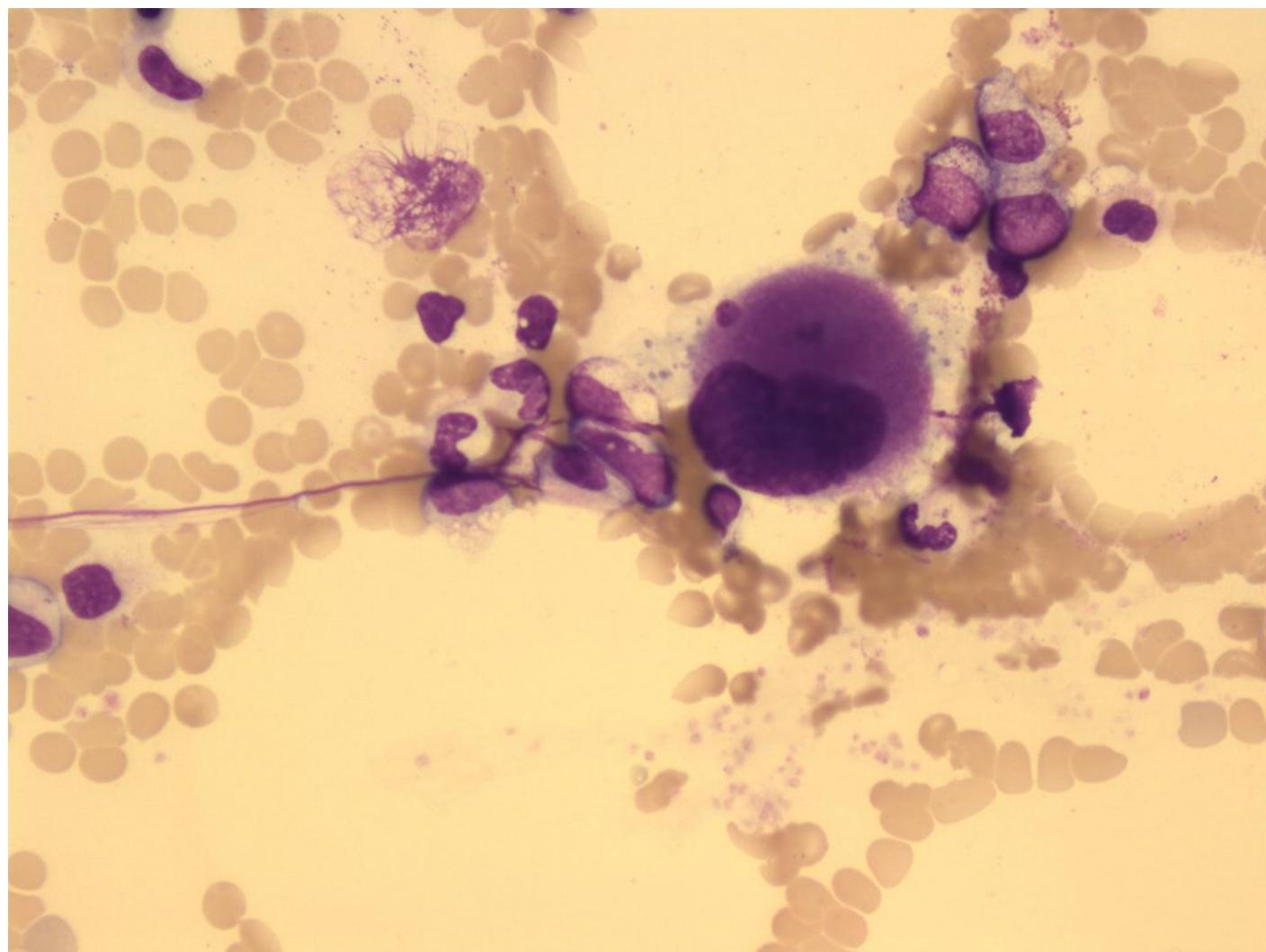
**PBS:**

Agranulation  
Hypogranulation  
Abnormal nuclear shapes (hypersegmentation, hyposegmentation, ring-shaped nuclei)  
Left shift  
Monocytosis  
Neutropenia  
Increased Blasts

**BM:**

Nuclear-cytoplasmic asynchrony  
Abnormal cytoplasmic staining  
Abnormal granulation (hypogranulation, hypergranulation)  
Increased Blasts  
+/- Auer rods

## Dysmegakaryopoiesis



An image from a bone marrow smear showing mononuclear megakaryocyte seen in myelodysplastic syndrome. 50x oil immersion. From MLS Collection, University of Alberta, <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3D21S081>

**Affected Cell line:** Megakaryocytes and platelets.<sup>1-3</sup>

**Table 3. Dysplastic features found in MDS megakaryocytes and platelets in the peripheral blood and bone marrow.**<sup>1-3</sup>

**PBS:**

Thrombocytopenia  
Hypogranulation/Agranulation  
Micromegakaryocytes  
Giant PLTs

**BM:**

Magakaryocytes with multiple separated nuclei  
Abnormal granulation (hypogranulation)  
Large mononuclear megakaryocytes  
Micromegakaryocytes  
Micromegakaryoblasts

**Other Tests:**

Platelet function tests are abnormal

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## References:

1. Rodak BF. Myelodysplastic syndromes. In: Rodak's hematology clinical applications and principles. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Saunders; 2015. p.591-603.
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# Thank You

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Email: [valentin@ualberta.ca](mailto:valentin@ualberta.ca)

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