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Hereditary ovalocytosis

Hereditary ovalocytosis is a rare condition passed down through families (inherited). The blood cells are oval-shaped instead of round. It is a form of hereditary elliptocytosis.

Causes

Hereditary ovalocytosis is mainly found in Southeast Asian populations.

Symptoms

Newborn infants with hereditary ovalocytosis may have anemia and jaundice. Adults most often do not show symptoms.

Exams and Tests

An exam by your health care provider may show an enlarged spleen.

This condition is diagnosed by looking at the shape of blood cells under a microscope. The following tests may also be done:

- Complete blood count (CBC) to check for anemia or red blood cell destruction
- Blood smear to determine cell shape
- Bilirubin level (may be high)
- Lactate dehydrogenase level (may be high)
- Ultrasound of the abdomen (may show gallstones)

Treatment

In severe cases, the disease may be treated by removal of the spleen (splenectomy).

Possible Complications

The condition may be associated with gallstones or kidney problems.

Alternative Names

Ovalocytosis - hereditary

References

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