

# Approach to hemolysis

GNT BLOCK



## COLOR INDEX:

-  **Main text**
-  **Dr. Notes**
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-  **Femal's text**
-  **Important**
-  **Extra**

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# Objectives



To be able to define haemolysis and hemolytic anemia.



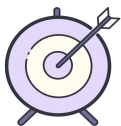
To be able to classify hemolytic anemias into congenital and acquired types, and to know the etiological factors in each division.



To understand the difference between intravascular and extravascular haemolysis, and to recognize the laboratory features of each.



To appreciate some major examples of congenital disorders resulting in hemolysis like HS and G6PD deficiency.



To understand the role of autoantibodies in the production of hemolytic anemias and to know the types of disease with which they are associated



To understand some causes of non-immune acquired hemolytic anemias.

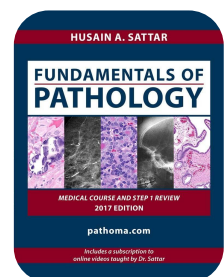


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ZERO FINALS



Click on [PATHOMA](#) for a revision and more info!



Our [YouTube's playlist](#) for this lecture!



**This lecture was given by: Dr. Osamah T.Khajoh and Prof. Fatma Al Qahtani**

**\*No objectives was found in new male slides**

# Introduction to Hemolysis

## Hemolysis

Hemolysis is a state with a **short lifespan** of a mature red blood cell

**Not marked (mild)**  
Can be compensated

- Increased red cell output from the marrow.
- Stimulated by erythropoietin
- Will be sufficient.

**Marked**  
Can **NOT** be compensated

- More marked reductions in red cell lifespan.
- 5-10 days from usual 120 days
- ★ **Will result in hemolytic anemia.**

### Extravascular hemolysis

Excessive removal of RBCs by **macrophages** of the (liver, spleen and bone marrow)<sup>1</sup> from the circulation **by phagocytosis**

macrophages of the Reticuloendothelial system (Organs)

★ **Majority of hemolytic anemia**

### Intravascular hemolysis

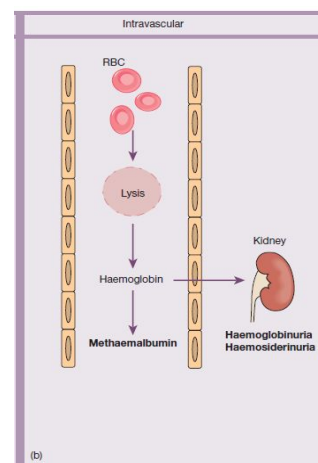
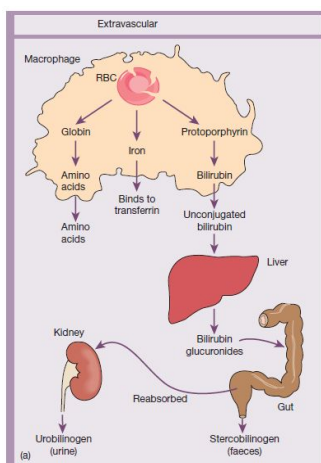
Red blood cells are caused to rupture and release their hemoglobin (Hb) **directly into circulation.**

The extra/intravascular site of red cell destruction may give clues to the underlying etiology of the hemolysis.

#### Extra Row

hemolysis occurs in the reticuloendothelial system, which occurs in **normal and pathological** hemolysis.

hemolysis is taking place within vessels. Never in normal physiology, **always pathological.**



## Laboratory investigation

### A) Features of increased red cell breakdown:

★ serum bilirubin raised, unconjugated and bound to albumin; urine urobilinogen increased; **serum haptoglobins absent** because the haptoglobins become saturated with hemoglobin and the complex is removed by RE cells.

### B) Features of increased red cell production:

★ **Reticulocytosis**; bone marrow erythroid hyperplasia; **the normal marrow myeloid : erythroid ratio of 2 : 1 to 12 : 1 is reduced to 1 : 1 or reversed.** meaning there is a pressure on bone marrow to produce more RBC's

### C) Damaged red cells:

morphology (e.g. microspherocytes, elliptocytes, fragments); osmotic fragility; specific enzyme, protein or DNA tests.

## General Management

Remove the underlying cause (e.g. methyldopa).

Corticosteroids.

Monoclonal antibody. Anti-CD20 (rituximab) (used with the acquired immune haemolytic anemia).

Splenectomy may be of value in those who fail to respond well.

Immunosuppression: Anti-CD52 (Alemtuzumab), azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, ciclosporin and mycophenolate.

It may be necessary to treat the underlying disease, e.g. chronic lymphocytic leukemia or lymphoma

Folic acid.

Blood transfusion.

High-dose immunoglobulin.

Bone marrow Transplant.

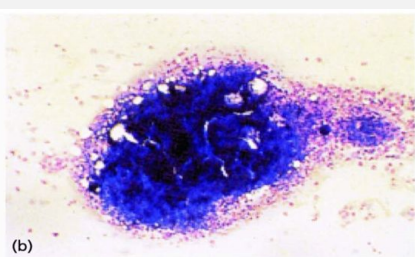
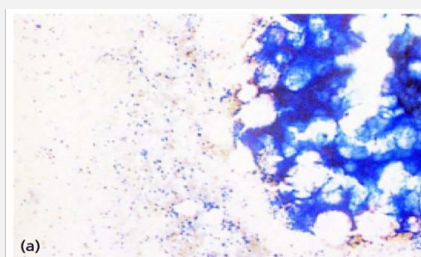
Gene therapy.

# Hemolysis

## Laboratory evidence of hemolysis

Type of hemolysis	Intravascular hemolysis	Extravascular hemolysis
Hyperbilirubinemia	A rise in <u>unconjugated bilirubin</u> concentration in the plasma.	
Serum lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) an enzyme present in red cells	★ ↑ ↑	↑
Macrocytosis (high MCV)	may also develop secondary to <u>folate deficiency</u> . How? hemolysis will increase the bone marrow demand for folic acid leading to deficiency.	
★ ↑ reticulocyte count	<p>An <b>increase in the absolute reticulocyte count</b> is an indication of increased erythropoietic activity.</p> <p>The number of reticulocytes in the blood is expressed either as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>percentage of the total number of red cells</li> <li>absolute number per liter of blood</li> </ol> <p>in normal adults, the percentage is in the range of 0.5–3% and the absolute count is (20 - 100 X 10<sup>9</sup>/L)</p>	
Polychromasia	a bluish discoloration of R <sub>c</sub> BC due to <b>reticulocytosis</b>	
examination of the bone marrow	if examination of the bone marrow is undertaken, there will be evidence of <b>increased erythropoiesis</b> . Marrow shows erythroid hyperplasia are also hypercellular, due to the replacement of fat cells by erythroid precursors.	
▶ <b>haptoglobin</b> (molecule binds to free Hb)	★ ↓ or absent	↓ mild
Methaemalbuminaemia*	✓ when Free Hb can bind to albumin to form methemalbumin.	-
Hemoglobinuria	✓ Free Hb in the urine (note the difference from <b>hematuria</b> , which describes the presence of intact red cells in the urine).	-
Hemosiderinuria	✓	-
Hemoglobinemia	✓	-
On peripheral blood film ★	<b>Schistocytes</b> : Red cell fragmentation	<b>Spherocytosis</b> (spherocyte)

Note: \*Now rarely used in investigating a patient



(A) A normocellular marrow fragment: about half its volume consists of hematopoietic cells (staining blue) and the remainder of unstained rounded fat cells.

(B) A markedly hypercellular marrow fragment, as might be seen in the response to haemolysis: virtually all the fat cells are replaced by hematopoietic cells.

# Hemolysis

## Clinical features of hemolysis :

1

**Pallor and jaundice** secondary to the elevated bilirubin levels

Pallor is a sign of anemia and jaundice is a sign of hemolysis



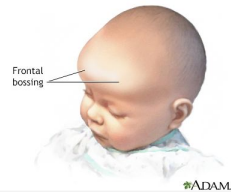
2

**Splenomegaly** might be seen. ★



3

Long term complications of chronic hemolysis;  
Expansion of erythropoiesis in the marrow cavities, thinning of cortical bone, bone deformities (e.g. frontal and parietal bossing) and very occasionally pathological fractures Signs of increased hematopoiesis



4

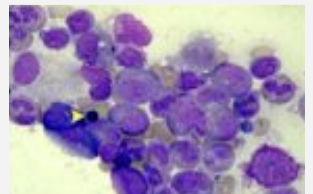
**Pigment gallstones** are seen commonly Signs of increased hematopoiesis



5



Risk of episodes of **pure red cell aplasia (PRCA)** especially with **parvovirus B19**. (Very common in haemolytic anemia)



# Hemolytic Anemia

EXTRA

**Hemolytic anemias** are defined as anemias characterized by an excessive breakdown of red blood cells (RBCs).

They can be classified according to the **cause of hemolysis** (intrinsic or extrinsic) and by the **location of hemolysis** (intravascular or extravascular).



## By RBC Pathology

Type	Definition
Intrinsic hemolytic anemia	Increased destruction of RBCs due to a defect within the RBC
Extrinsic hemolytic anemia	Abnormal breakdown of normal RBCs

## By location of RBC Breakdown

Type	Definition
Intravascular hemolytic anemia	Increased destruction of RBCs within the blood vessels
Extravascular hemolytic anemia	Increased destruction of RBCs by the reticuloendothelial system (primarily the spleen)

## Based on presence at birth

Type	Definition
Congenital hemolytic anemia	Hereditary conditions including defects of erythrocyte membrane proteins, red cell enzymes and globin chains
Acquired hemolytic anemia	Normal RBC's. However, some other disease or factor causes the body to destroy red blood cells and remove them from the bloodstream.



# Hemolytic Anemia

## Hemolytic anemia

It is a **shorten in the lifespan** of an RBC that **cannot** be overcome by ability of bone marrow production. (Can not be compensated)

### Classification

#### congenital

The underlying defect is typically **intrinsic** to the red cell itself, affecting the red cell's membrane, its enzymes, or its hemoglobin.

#### acquired

The underlying defect are due to defects **extrinsic** or outside the RBCs (except PNH= Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria) and can be divided into those with an immune basis and those without.

☆ مهم جدا لو حفظنا الجدول هذا ممتاز: Dr.F

### Congenital Hemolytic Anemia \*\*

Etiology	Conditions
Membrane defects (Membraneopathy)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hereditary <b>spherocytosis (HS)</b></li> <li>2. Hereditary <b>Elliptocytosis (HE)</b></li> <li>3. Hereditary <b>Pyropoikilocytosis (HPP)</b></li> </ol>
Enzyme defects (Enzymopathy)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>G6PD def.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Pyruvate kinase def.</b></li> </ol>
Globin defects (another lecture)	<b>Sickle cell anemia</b>

### Acquired Hemolytic Anemia \*\*

Etiology	Conditions
Immune	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia (<b>WAHA</b>)</li> <li>2. Cold Hemagglutinin disease (<b>CHAD</b>)</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. hemolytic transfusion reactions</li> <li>2. hemolytic disease of the newborn</li> </ol>
Non-immune	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mechanical</b></li> <li>2. <b>Microangiopathic haemolytic anemia (MAHA)</b></li> <li>3. <b>Infection</b></li> </ol>





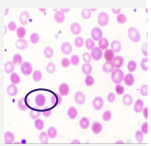
# Congenital Hemolytic Anemias



**Hereditary Spherocytosis (HS)** It is an autosomal dominant disease caused by mutations of proteins that attach RBC cytoskeleton to RBC membrane leading to loss of the membrane, RBC becomes more spherical (spherocyte)

## ★ 1. Membranopathy: A. Hereditary Spherocytosis (HS)



<p>Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HS is the most common membranopathy with 60% related to <b>Ankyrin protein gene</b>. Loss of Ankyrin gene leads to secondary reductions in spectrin and protein 4.1 leading to a <b>spheroid shape</b>, distribution in <b>vertical connection</b></li> <li>RBCs are destroyed by <b>splenic macrophages (extravascular hemolysis)</b></li> </ul>	
<p>Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% of all HS patients have <b>mild disease</b></li> <li>The majority of patients have <b>moderate disease</b> characterized by a <b>Hb concentration of 8-11 g/dl</b></li> <li>A small percentage have <b>severe disease</b> requiring intermittent or even regular transfusion</li> </ul>	
<p>Complication</p>	<p>★ <b>Pigment gallstones</b>. Increased hemolysis of red blood cells leads to increased bilirubin levels, which may cause the formation of a pigmented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Megaloblastic anemia</b> occasionally found. Folate and vitamin B12 deficiency may develop due to chronic hemolysis leading to megaloblastic anemia</li> <li><b>Aplastic crisis</b> may occur <b>secondary to parvovirus B19</b>. .How? The main target cells of parvovirus B19 are erythroid precursor cells in bone marrow leading to further destruction of RBCs and Aplastic crisis which is when the body fails to produce blood cells in sufficient numbers</li> </ul>	
<p>Diagnosis</p>	<p>Family History, Mild jaundice, pallor and splenomegaly</p>	
	<p>peripheral blood film</p>	<p>★ <b>Presence of Spherocytes</b></p> <p>In HS there will be ↑MCHC so the RBC will look more dense without central pallor</p> 
	<p>Laboratory findings</p> <p>Special tests</p>	<p>anemia, reticulocytosis and ↑ plasma bilirubin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eosin-5-maleamide (<b>EMA</b>) <b>binding test (definitive evidence)</b> by <b>flow cytometry</b>.</li> <li>The red cell membrane proteins genes, by <b>molecular testing</b>.</li> <li><b>Protein electrophoresis</b> on a denaturing polyacrylamide gel.</li> </ul>
<p>★ Treatment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Folic acid</b> supplementation.</li> <li><b>Splenectomy</b>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>For children with severe disease</b></li> <li><b>Splenectomy</b> ↑ the risk of significant <b>infection</b>, encapsulated organisms. This risk is especially marked in <u>children under the age of 5</u>.</li> <li><b>Preoperative preparation:</b> Administration of pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccine and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine. (as prophylactic)</li> <li><b>Post splenectomy:</b> Prophylactic <b>penicillin V</b> is advised lifelong</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

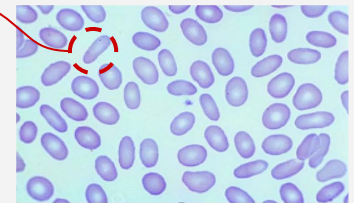
# Congenital Hemolytic Anemias

- Q. How Hereditary Spherocytosis (HS) can lead to splenomegaly?
- A. The spleen is a filtering organ in the body and the main site of destruction for the abnormal red cells in HS, spherocytes have a hard time passing through due to their irregular shape causing back up in the spleen and eventually splenomegaly
- Q. What is The eosin-5-maleamide (EMA) binding test?
- A. It's the test of choice in HS, and it will show decreased binding between dye (eosin-5-maleimide) and RBC membrane proteins, which shows ↓ RBCs fluorescence. Binding is quantified
- Q. Why do we perform splenectomy in HS?
- A. Having spherocytes isn't the problem, spleen eating them is, so a Splenectomy removes the primary "graveyard" for spherocytes eliminating anemia and hyperbilirubinemia and lowers the high reticulocyte number to nearly normal levels.



## 1. Membranopathy: B. Hereditary Elliptocytosis (HE)

- Relatively common condition, with many cases showing **defects in  $\alpha$  spectrin protein, (horizontal interaction)**
- Most patients are clinically asymptomatic, some will have a chronic symptomatic hemolytic anemia.
- showing very characteristic **elongated (elliptical) red cell shape** on peripheral blood film



## 1. Membranopathy: C. Hereditary Pyropoikilocytosis (HPP)

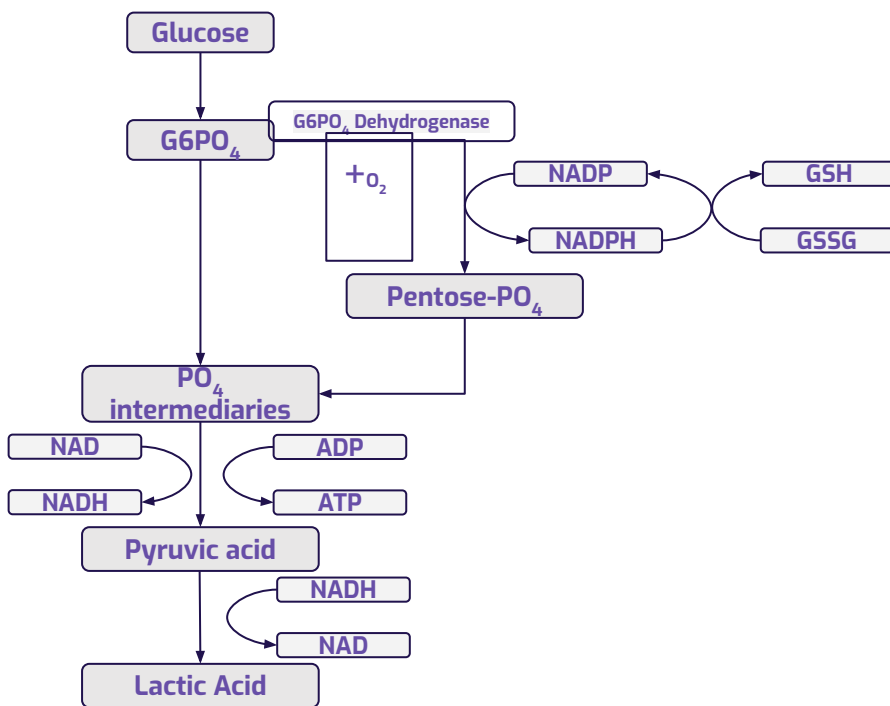
- Described as **Severe disturbance of multimerization of spectrin** with severe hemolytic anemia from infancy and a **bizarre peripheral blood morphology**, including microspherocytes and poikilocytes

# Congenital Hemolytic Anemias

## Overview of Enzymopathies

- Hemolytic anemias may also result from congenital abnormalities of the **enzymes required for energy transfer in glucose metabolism (example: G6PD)**
- The red cell needs a continuous supply of energy for
- **It need supply because it becomes fragile / can't handle stress or pressure)**
  - Maintenance of membrane flexibility and cell shape
  - Regulation of sodium and potassium pumps
  - Maintenance of Hb in the reduced ferrous form **which protects from an oxidative stress**

## G6PD Enzyme



A schematic diagram of the pathway of glucose metabolism in the red cell, to show the important role of G6PD. A **decreased** activity of the enzyme leads to a **deficiency** of the **reducing compounds NADPH and GSH**.

This deficiency makes RBCs more susceptible to oxidative stress and can result in episodic hemolytic anemia

بكل اختصار حنا نحتاج G6PD عشان نطلع NADPH  
والى يستخدم للتخلص من ال Oxidative stress

## 2.Enzymopathies: A. G6PD deficiency

**Definition:** Various mutations in the G6PD gene on the **X chromosome** results in this disorders with a **male predominance**.

**G6PD deficiency often protects against malaria**

It's X chromosome (recessive) with a male predominance. G6PD deficiency **protects** against **malaria**, an infection by plasmodium falciparum.

# Congenital Hemolytic Anemias

## 2. Enzymopathies: A. G6PD deficiency

Deficiency of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase **G6PD**, the first enzyme of the hexose monophosphate/pentose-phosphate shunt

Will prevent the normal generation of **NADPH**, with subsequent erythrocyte sensitivity to oxidative stress.

The RBC is exposed to oxidants (e.g. some medications)

Hb is converted to methemoglobin and denatured.

Denatured Hb then precipitates

forming inclusions in the red cell called **Heinz bodies** (Remainings of haemoglobin) (detected by supravital staining)

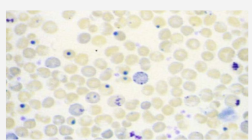
Splenic macrophages (extravascular) remove Heinz bodies (this is not hemolysis!)

forming inclusion-free cells called **Bite cells** (خلايا مقضومة) the resulting inclusion-free cells display unstained areas at their periphery (Bite cells, caused by removal of Heinz bodies from RBC)

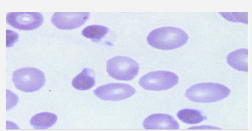
Bite cells will lead to hemolysis

Bite cells lead to predominantly **intravascular hemolysis** (during acute insult) which begins 1-3 days post exposure to the oxidative stressor, with anemia being maximal about 7-10 days after exposure

Patient may report dark **reddish** urine due to hemoglobinuria. Screening test and assays for detecting G6PD deficiency are available



Membrane-bound **Heinz bodies** consisting of denatured hemoglobin (supravital staining with methyl violet)



Patient with G6PD deficiency who had received primaquine. These red cells are irregular in shape, are abnormally dense and show a poorly staining area just beneath part of the cell membrane (MGG stain)

## Treatment of G6PD deficiency

1

In most cases it is self-limiting

2

Avoidance of oxidative precipitants to hemolysis.

3

Packed red cell transfusion may be required in cases of severe hemolysis

4

In children, rehydration is needed to avoid acute kidney injury.

# Congenital Hemolytic Anemias

## Favism/أنيميا الفول

Syndrome in which an **acute hemolytic anemia** occurs after the ingestion of the **broad bean** (*Vicia fava*) in individuals with a **deficiency of G6PD** (commonly of the Mediterranean type)

Usually affects **children**:

1. **Severe anemia** develops rapidly
2. Often accompanied by **hemoglobinuria**.

## 2. Enzymopathies: B. Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency

- Pyruvate kinase deficiency is another relatively common example of enzymopathies
- There is usually a **chronic hemolytic anemia** and some patients may benefit from **splenectomy**.

## 3. Hemoglobinopathies

- Defects in the structure of Hb.
- Structural variants of the globin chains may affect the lifespan of the red cell, **with sickle cell anemia being the best-described example**.
- A tendency of the HbS variant to **polymerize** under conditions of low oxygen tension leads to distortion of the erythrocyte in the well-recognized sickle shape.

# Evaluation of Hb electrophoresis

Dr: All of this in OSPE, so i will not ask u about it here

## Golden Rules to Evaluate Hemoglobin Electrophoresis

You must know the CBC results (RBC count, Hb, MCV, MCH, RDW & Plt).

Peripheral blood film might be useful (target, sickle, pencil, rhomboidal, golf).

Different methods have their own issues (gel: alkaline or acid, HPLC & capillary electrophoresis)

Family history and molecular tests are critical in difficult cases and to confirm the diagnosis.

As a physician, do not under estimate the medical history and clinical examination.

Are all normal hemoglobin variants present? And if present, are they in normal amount?

Beta thalassemia trait has a higher Hb A<sub>2</sub> (>3.6) & beta thalassemia major has a very high Hb F (>80%).

Is there any abnormal Hb? What is the percentage?

Sickle cell trait has 35% - 45% Hb S. If it is >45%, it is a sickle cell disease (when high Hb A<sub>2</sub> then likely S/beta thal). • 10) Alpha thalassemia reduced other abnormal Hb level, in trait state.



# Acquired Hemolytic anemia

## Acquired Hemolytic anemia

In Acquired hemolytic anemias, red cells may be destroyed either by **immunological** or by **non-immunological mechanisms**.

### Immunological causes

**Antigens** on the surface of red cells react with **antibodies** and might cause complement activation.

### Pathogenesis

#### Extravascular hemolysis

**IgG**-coated red cells interact with the Fc receptors on macrophages in the spleen, and are then either completely or partially phagocytosed. When the phagocytosis is partial, the damaged cell will return to the circulation **as a spherocyte**.

#### Intravascular hemolysis

Sometimes, membrane attack complex (C5-C9), complement, leads to it.



## Subtypes of Immunological Acquired Hemolytic anemia

### Autoantibodies Autoimmune

- Antibodies formed by the body against one or more **antigenic** constituents of the individual's own tissues.
- These include: **autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA)** and some **drug-related** hemolytic anemias.
- **Auto** means the human's body itself synthesis the Ab

### Alloimmune

- Antibodies produced by one individual reacts against **red cells** of another, as in hemolytic **transfusion** reactions and **hemolytic disease of the newborn**
- **Allo** means the human gain Ab from other factors, for example: blood / organ transplantation

Autoimmune hemolytic anemias are a collection of disorders characterized by the destruction of red blood cells via antibody-mediated hemolysis. They are classified as type II (cytotoxic) hypersensitivity reactions.

# Acquired Hemolytic anemia

autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA) 

## Classification of AIHAs

Male dr: not important

Causes	Etiology	
Warm-reactive antibodies "IgG Subtype"	Idiopathic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)</li> <li>★ Lymphoma</li> <li>★ Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)</li> <li>Some drugs</li> </ul>
Cold-reactive antibodies (Cold haemagglutinin disease CHAD) "IgM Subtype"		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infections: <u>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</u> and Infectious <u>mononucleosis</u></li> <li>Lymphomas</li> </ul>
Paroxysmal cold haemoglobinuria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some <b>viral</b> infections</li> <li><b>Congenital</b> &amp; tertiary syphilis</li> </ul>
Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH)		
Drug-related hemolytic anemias.		

## 1. AIHA: A. Warm AIHA



Warm Agglutinin Disease is characterized by heat sensitive (warm) antibodies binding to RBCs, which triggers inappropriate phagocytosis of these RBCs

*i*

### Overview

- 'Warm' autoantibodies react best with the red cell antigen at 37°C and are usually of IgG subtype.
- Antibody-coated red cells undergo partial or complete phagocytosis in the spleen and by the Kupffer cells of the liver. kupffer cells are macrophages of the liver
- There may be partial activation of the complement cascade.

### Etiology

- Idiopathic
  - Hemolysis dominates the clinical picture and no evidence can be found of any other disease.
- Secondary to a primary disease like:
  - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)
  - Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

mnemonic:

- The Milkshake is cold
- Gloves keep me warm

*i*

# Acquired Hemolytic anemia

## 1. AIHA: A. Warm AIHA

### Critical diagnostic investigation:

★ Direct antiglobulin test (DAT)

Direct antiglobulin test (DAT) also known as Coomb's test, helps to distinguish between autoimmune (positive Coombs test) and non-autoimmune anemias (negative Coombs test).

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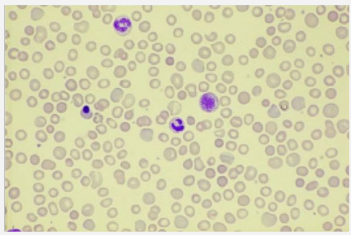
### Findings in the peripheral blood.

1 Anemia

2 Reticulocytosis

3 **Spherocytosis**  
Extravascular

4 Rare nucleated red cells



Blood film from a patient with idiopathic AIHA (warm-reactive antibody) showing prominent **spherocytosis** and polychromasia.

### Treatment

1 Prednisolone

can limit hemolysis.

2 Splenectomy

should be considered if reduction in hemolysis is not maintained when the dose of steroids is lowered

3 Immunosuppressive therapy

An alternative option, the anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody rituximab, as well as immunosuppressants such as azathioprine or cyclophosphamide.

# Acquired Hemolytic anemia

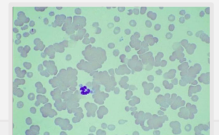
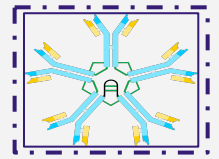
**Cold Hemagglutinin Disease (CHAD)** is characterized by heat sensitive (cold) antibodies binding to RBCs, which causes agglutination and lysis of these RBCs

i

## 1. AIHA: B. Cold AIHA

### Overview

- ‘Cold’ antibodies react best at temperatures **below 32°C (usually below 15°C)** and, since they are usually of **IgM** subtype, are capable of agglutinating red cells.
- Cold antibodies bind to the red cell surface in the cooler superficial blood vessels of the peripheries. IgM subtype, **pentameric structure (check pic)**, permits direct agglutination of red cells coated with antibody; they are therefore sometimes termed cold agglutinins.



Numerous red cells agglutinated from a patient with idiopathic CHAD  
Clumped RBCs

### Symptoms

- Symptoms of CHAD are worse during cold weather**
- **Acrocyanosis**<sup>1</sup> provoked by exposure to cold painful cyanosis of the extremities
  - The direct activation of the complement system leads to red cells lysis and, consequently, to hemoglobinemia and hemoglobinuria (intravascular hemolysis).

### Treatment

- Rituximab may be effective, Steroids or Splenectomy is prohibited.
- Chronic idiopathic CHAD is managed initially simply by keeping the patient warm

# Acquired Hemolytic anemia

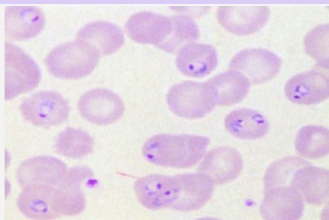
## Acquired Non-immune Hemolytic Anemias

- Several of the mechanical causes of acquired non-immune hemolytic anemia are summarized in table. Note that some drugs cause hemolysis by immune mechanisms.

### Causes of Acquired Non-immune Hemolytic Anemias

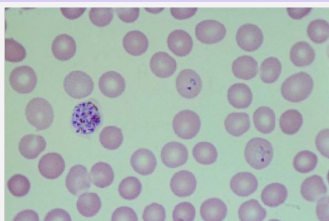
Mechanical trauma to RBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abnormalities in the heart &amp; large blood vessels</li><li>Aortic valve prosthesis, severe aortic valve disease</li><li>Microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia</li><li>Haemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)</li><li>Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP)</li><li>Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)</li><li>Metastatic malignancy, Malignant hypertension</li><li>March haemoglobinuria</li></ul>
Infections Most common cause **	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clostridium perfringens (welchii)</li><li>Malaria</li><li>bartonellosis</li></ul>
Drugs, *chemicals & venoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oxidant drugs and chemicals, arsine</li><li>Acute lead poisoning, copper toxicity</li><li>Venoms of certain spiders and snakes</li></ul>
Burns	
Hypersplenism	

#### A. Plasmodium Falciparum Malaria



Blood film from a patient with **plasmodium falciparum malaria** showing several parasitized red cells, Red cells heavily parasitized with malaria may be subject to **intravascular lysis**.

#### B. Plasmodium Vivax Malaria



Blood film from a patient with **plasmodium vivax malaria** showing two parasitized red cells, each containing a single parasite (ring form or early trophozoite and an ameboid late trophozoite). Another red cells contains a schizont. Some of the parasitized cells are slightly enlarged

# Acquired Hemolytic anemia

## Acquired Non-immune Hemolytic Anemias

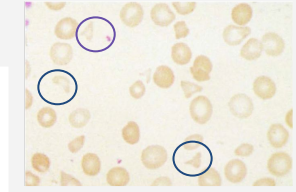
### Mechanical Damage to Red cells

Red cells are mechanically damaged when they impact upon abnormal surfaces.

### Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

- Inappropriate activation of the coagulation cascade produces fibrin strands which are thought to cause mechanical destruction of red cells.
- Such damage usually results in **the presence of red cell fragments (schistocytes)** **Triangular in shape**, in the blood film. sign of intravascular hemolysis

**Figure:** Fragmented red cells (schistocytes) in the blood film of a patient with a malfunctioning aortic valve prosthesis  
**Dr.F:** Someone presented with malfunctioning aortic valve and has haemolytic anemia = Blood fragmentation = schistocytes



### Drugs

- While immune mechanisms of drug-induced haemolysis are well described, there are also non-immune mechanisms by which the red cell lifespan may be shortened.
- Chemicals, such as benzene, toluene (methylbenzene) and saponin, which are **fat solvents**, **act on the red cell membrane directly and disrupt its lipid components, inducing hemolysis.**

### Hypersplenism

- Overactive spleen results in the reduction in the lifespan of red cells, granulocytes and platelets that may be found in patients with splenomegaly due to any cause.
- The cytopenias found in these patients are also partly caused by **increased pooling of blood cells within the spleen and might be treated with a splenectomy.** (Splenectomy is to prevent pooling)

# Summary

Thanks to team 439

## Laboratory Findings of Hemolysis

### Extravascular Haemolysis

involves RBC destruction by reticuloendothelial system  
(The majority of hemolytic anemia)

### Intravascular Haemolysis

involves destruction of RBCs within vessels

**Hyperbilirubinemia** (unconjugated)

**Increase Serum Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH, marked in intra)**

**Reticulocytosis:** Increased **reticulocyte** count. Which indicates increased **erythropoietic activity**.

examination of the bone marrow shows: 1-increased Erythropoiesis 2-Erythroid hyperplasia.

**Spherocytosis** on the peripheral blood film. (Spherocyte)

**Reduction of serum Haptoglobin**

**Hemoglobinuria, Haemoglobinaemia** and **Hemosiderinuria** .

**Schistocytes:** red cell fragmentation

**Hemolytic Anemia:** is a **shorten in lifespan of RBC** that **can't be compensated** by bone marrow. Hemolytic anemias can be classified into:

**A) Congenital Hemolytic Anemia:** The defect is **intrinsic** to RBC itself, affecting Red cell:

**Hereditary spherocytosis (HS)**  
Most common

**Causes:** loss of **Ankyrin** then leads to secondary reductions in **spectrin**, and **protein 4.1** leading to a spheroid shape, **vertical interaction**. Destroyed by splenic macrophages, **extravascular hemolysis**. Peripheral smear shows **spherocytosis**.

**Hereditary Elliptocytosis (HE)**

**Causes:** defects in **α spectrin**, **horizontal interaction**. Peripheral smear shows **elliptical/elongated RBC's**.

**Hereditary Pyropoikilocytosis (HPP)** sever form from HE (homozygous mutation)

Its Enzymes

1- **G6PD Deficiency**  
( G6PD gene mutation on X chromosome) **predominantly intravascular, could be extravascular**

**Blood film shows:** 1-**Heinz bodies** 2- **Bite cells** (in a patient exposed to Oxidants). **Favism:** causes an **acute hemolytic anemia** after the ingestion of the broad bean in G6PD deficiency patients. Affects children. Severe anemia develops & accompanied by hemoglobinuria.

2 - **Pyruvate kinase deficiency** **Extravascular**

Its hemoglobin

Sickle cell anemia

**B) Acquired Hemolytic Anemia:** The cause is typically due to **extrinsic** defects, outside the red cell (except \*PNH)

Immune

Autoimmune

**Warm Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia**  
**Extravascular**

Autoantibodies react best with the red cell antigen at **37°C** and are usually of **IgG**. Secondary to: **SLE** and **CLL**. Peripheral smear shows **spherocytosis**. Critical diagnostic investigation: **Direct antiglobulin test (DAT)**, known as **Coomb's test**

**Cold Hemagglutinin Disease (CHAD)**  
**Intravascular**

Antibodies react best **below 32°C**, they are usually of **IgM**.

**Alloimmune**

Non-immune

**Most commonly due to infection of: Malaria, Clostridium perfringen, and bartonellosis. Some drugs**



# Members board

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