# **PHYSIOLOGY OF BLOOD**

## **FUNCTIONS OF BLOOD**

### **HOMEOSTATIC FUNCTION**

buffering

thermoregulation (transport of heat)

### **TRANSPORT OF SUBSTANCES**

(blood gases, nutrients, metabolites, vitamins, electrolytes…) **HUMORAL CONTROL OF ORGANISM** (hormones) **DEFENCE OF ORGANISM** (immune functions) **BLOOD CLOTTING**

## **BASIC CHARACTERISTICS**

- •**Suspension** character
- •6 8% total body mass
- •55% **fluid** phase (plasma)



- •45% **formed** phase (blood cells and platelets)
- •**Serum**: from plasma during blood clotting after consumption of
- fibrinogen

**BONE MARROW**

Size (1600-3000 grams), activity.

**Red** bone marrow, **yellow** bone marrow.

**Pluripotent** stem cells.

**Unipotent** (determined) stem cells – differentiated cells.

**Extra-medullar** haematopoiesis – liver, lien – CHILDREN.

**Medullar** haematopoiesis – ADULTS.

Bone marrow examination – punction. Bone marrow diseases. Bone marrow transplantation.





Silverthorn, D. U. Human Physiology – an Integrated Approach. 6th. edition. Pearson Education, Inc. 2012.





Section of yellow bone marrow. This bone marrow is yellow in its fresh state because of the abundance of yellowish adipocytes present. The hemopoietic (\*) tissue is comparatively less abundant than in red bone marrow. The adipocytes, or fat cells, (Ad) appear as large circular clear spaces in this field. A megakaryocyte (M) and venous sinuses (S) are also labelled. Source:

http://audilab.bmed.mcgill.ca/HA/ht ml/blood\_7\_E.html

This bone marrow is referred to as red marrow because it contains few adipocytes, or fat cells, among an abundance of hemopoietic cells. It is difficult to identify the individual precursors of red and white blood cells because they are closely packed and condensed during the fixation of the tissue (\*).

The following elements are identified: a megakaryocyte (M), which is a very large polyploid cell responsible for the production of blood platelets one adipocyte (Ad) two blood sinuses (S).

The walls of these vessels are the sites where newly formed erythrocytes and leukocytes pass from the connective tissue into the blood circulation.



Source: Wikimedia Commons





## **BLOOD CELLS**



### **RED BLOOD CELLS (ERYTHROCYTES)**



#### **Function of erythrocytes:** blood gases transport

### **RED BLOOD CELL EXAMINATION**

### **1. Red blood cell count**

- normocytemia
- erytrocytopenia (oligocytemia)
- polyglobulia (polycytemia)
- **2. Concentration of haemoglobin**
- anaemia

### **3. Hematocrit**

**SHAPE AND SIZE OF ERYTHROCYTES**

**Shape**: biconcave disc OPTIMAL RATIO OF SURFACE TO VOLUME!!! By 30% larger surface in comparison with the cell of the same size but of round shape!!!

**Anizocytosis** – physiological, pathological. Price-Jones curve.

**Size**: 7,5  $\mu$ m in diameter, 2  $\mu$ m thickness – normocytes. Microcytes (-osis): diameter below 6 µm, volume below 80 fl Macrocytes (-osis), megalocytes: diameter above 8.2 µm, volume above 95 fl

**Amount of haemoglobin in one red blood cell**: hypochromia (below 27 pg Hb/ery), normochromia, hyperchromia

**Deformation of red blood cells.** Fahraeus-Lindqvist effect.

# Price-Jones curve



# Fahraeus-Lindquist effect



# Factors that influece blood viscosity

- Fibrinogen
- Hematocrit
- Vessel diameter
- Velocity of blood flow



• Temperature

- 1. Transport proteins
- 2. Cell adhesion proteins
- 3. Structural proteins



- **Glycophorins A and B**
	- major sialoglycoproteins of the human erythrocyte membrane which bear the antigenic determinants for the MN and Ss blood groups (MNS blood group)
- **Spectrin**
	- the most prominent component (two isoforms α,β; a tetramer; a meshwork)
	- fixed to the membrane ankyrin binding sites for several other proteins (glycophorin C, actin, band 4.1, adducin)
- **This organization keeps the erythrocyte shape.**

## Transport proteins

- **Band 3 (Diego Blood group)**
	- mediating the exchange of chloride (Cl<sup>−</sup>) for bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>−</sup>) across a plasma membrane
- **Aquaporin 1 = water channel (Colton Blood Group)**
- **GLUT1**
- **Jk antigen**
	- on a protein responsible for urea transport in the red blood cells and the kidney (aka human urea transporter 11- HUT11 or UT-B1)
- **Rh-associated glycoprotein (RHAG) (Rh Blood Group)**
	- an ammonia transporter protein
- **Na<sup>+</sup> /K<sup>+</sup> -ATPase**
- **Ca2+ -ATPase**
- **Na-K-Cl cotransporter**
- **Sodium-chloride symporter**
- **Chloride potassium symporter**
- **Potassium intermediate/small conductance calcium-activated channel (Gardos channel)**

## Cell adhesion proteins

- **ICAM-4 (Landsteiner and Wiener Blood System)**
- **BCAM** = Basal cell adhesion molecule (**Lutheran blood group**)

## Structural proteins

- Establish linkages with skeletal proteins
- Regulating cohesion
- Ankyrin-based macromolecular complex
- Protein 4.1R-based macromolecular complex
	- Protein 4.1 (Beatty's Protein)
	- Glycophorins C and D (**Gerbich Blood Group**)
	- XK (Kell blood group precursor) (**Kell Blood Group**)
	- RhD/RhCE (**Rh Blood Group**)
	- Duffy antigen/chemokine receptor (DARC)
	- Alpha-adducin
	- Dematin

# Erythrocyte exceptions

They lack organelles

- no ATP production in oxidative phosphorylation
- no ability to replace damaged lipids and proteins (low metabolic activities, with no ability to synthesize new proteins or lipids)

### Free radicals exposure

- haemoglobin autoxidation (O<sub>2</sub><sup>•</sup> release)
- a cell membrane rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids (susceptible to lipid peroxidation)
- deformation in tiny capillaries; catalytic ions leakage (cause of lipid peroxidation)

# Erythrocyte metabolism

1. **Glucose as a source of energy** (GLUT1 transporter, insulin-independent)

2. **Glycolysis generates ATP and 2,3 bisphosphoglycerate** (the specific binding of 2,3-BPG to deoxyhemoglobin decreases the oxygen affinity of hemoglobin and facilites oxygen release in tissues)

#### 3. **The pentose phosphate pathway produces NADPH**

4. **Glutathione synthesis - the antioxidant defence system**





Figure 1. Cascade of events initiated by the entrance of erythrocytes into a tissue region (dashed oval) in which oxygen demand exceeds oxygen supply. [For clarity, a single erythrocyte (RBC) is enlarged along with the associated vascular cells to show the events that occur following the entrance of an erythrocyte into the region of tissue with high oxygen demand.] When oxygen supply does not meet oxygen demand, tissue oxygen tension (PO<sub>2</sub>) decreases. This decrease in tissue PO<sub>2</sub> causes the hemoglobin oxygen content of the erythrocytes that perfuse the tissue region to decrease proportionally. This decrease in oxygen content initiates a series of events resulting in the release of ATP from the erythrocyte. The ATP then diffuses to the endothelium (Endo) where it binds to purinergic (P<sub>2v</sub>) receptors resulting in the production of vasoactive mediators, either within the endothelium or the smooth muscle (SMC), which initiate vasodilation. This vasodilation is conducted (dashed arrow) in a retrograde fashion increasing flow and thus oxygen supply to the tissue region in need.



Figure 2. Proposed pathway for regulated ATP release from erythrocytes in response to passage of these cells through areas of increased oxygen demand in skeletal muscle. The increase in oxygen demand leads to oxygen release from hemoglobin within the erythrocyte. Consequently, hemoglobin oxygen content decreases resulting in activation of the heterotrimeric G protein, Gi, leading to ATP release. ATP released from the erythrocyte can bind to purinergic receptors ( $P_{2v}$ ) on the vascular endothelium resulting in the release of vasodilators and, ultimately, an increase in blood flow (oxygen delivery). Abbreviations: Gi and Gs = heterotrimeric G proteins - i = inhibitory,  $s =$  stimulatory;  $ATP =$  adenosine  $5'$ -triphosphate;  $cAMP =$  $3'5'$ -cyclic adenosine monophosphate; Hb = hemoglobin; PKA = protein kinase A;  $CFTR = cystic$  fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator;  $? = an$  as yet unidentified mechanism;  $P_{2y} = P_{2y}$  purinergic receptor;  $\pm$  = stimulation.

Sprague RS, Stephenson AH, Ellsworth ML: **Red not dead: signaling in and from erythrocytes.** *TRENDS in Endocrinology and Metabolism 2007, 18(9):350-355.*

*Poikilocytes* – drop-like erythrocytes

*Schizocytes* – fragmented erythrocytes

*Spherocytes* – volume normal, diameter smaller, thickness bigger

*Eliptocytes* – ecliptic shape

*Leptocytes* – thin, centrally concentrated haemoglobin

(thalasemia, after splenectomy)

*Akantocytes* – prickly prominences



### **FRAGILITY OF ERYTHROCYTES**

*Haemolysis* – destruction of red blood cell membrane.

Types of haemolysis:

- a) physical
- b) chemical
- c) osmotic
- d) biological (toxic)
- e) immunological

### **Spherocytosis**

- disorders of protein net responsible for shape and elasticity of erythrocyte membrane – actin, ankyrin, spectrin. Disorders of glucose-6-phosphate-dehydrogenase .

**Erythrocytes life span**: 120 days, role of lien (double circulation), splenectomy. Reticulocytes.

### **ERYTHROCYTE SEDIMENTATION**

Sedimentation rate indirectly corresponds to suspension stability of blood.

Method of Fahreus-Westergren (FW).

Physiological values: men – women Units: mm/10min, 1 hr, 2 hrs, 24 hrs Physiological causes of increased sedimentation. Pathological causes of increased sedimentation.





## **Sedimentation rate**



#### THE BLOOD COUNT

This table lists the normal ranges of values.





#### Fig. 16.3

Silverthorn, D. U. Human Physiology – an Integrated Approach. 6th. edition. Pearson Education, Inc. 2012.

Table 2. Factors causing talse changes in Erythrocyte Sedimentation Kate



(Adapted from A Textbook of Natural Medicine, Pizzorno and Murray, 1992)



#### Table 3. Factors affecting Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)

(Adapted from A Textbook of Natural Medicine, Pizzorno and Murray, 1992)





Red pigment transporting oxygen. Protein, 64 450, 4 subunits.

Hem – derivative of porphyrine containing iron, conjugated with polypeptides (globin).

Embryonic haemoglobin: Gower I a Gower II ( $\tau$ 2 $\epsilon$ 2,  $\alpha$ 2 $\epsilon$ 2), Portland Fetal haemoglobin: Hb F,  $\beta$ 2 $\gamma$ 2, weaker binding of 2,3 DPG Adult haemoglobin: Hb A,  $\alpha$ 2 $\beta$ 2 (141/146)

Forms of haemoglobin:  $oxy$ haemoglobin -  $O<sub>2</sub>$  $carbaminohaemoglobin - CO<sub>2</sub>$ methaemoglobin –  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$  in hem carboxyhaemoglobin – CO









Silverthorn, D. U. Human Physiology – an Integrated Approach. 6th. edition. Pearson Education, Inc. 2012.



Abnormalities of haemoglobin production

•haemoglobinopathy (abnormal structure of chains) •thalasemia (lower production of normal chains)

•Sickle cell anaemia (Hb J)

Synthesis and destruction of haemoglobin

Hem: glycin a succinyl-CoA Globin: AMK Hem - globin: biliverdin, bilirubin (lumirubin – photo-therapy), bil

#### TABLE 32-3 Partial amino acid composition of normal human  $\beta$  chain, and some hemoglobins with abnormal  $\beta$  chains.<sup>a</sup>



a Other hemoglobins have abnormal  $\alpha$  chains. Abnormal hemoglobins that are very similar electrophoretically but differ slightly in composition are indicated by the same letter and a subscript indicating the geographic location where they were first discovered; hence, M<sub>Saskatoon</sub> and M<sub>Milwaukee</sub>.

### **Clinical aspects - Glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA<sup>1</sup> )**

- formed by hemoglobin's exposure to high plasma levels of glucose
- non-enzymatic glycolysation (glycation)- sugar bonding to a protein
- normal level  $HbA_1$  5%; a buildup of  $HbA_1$  increased glucose concentration
- the HbA<sub>1</sub> level is proportional to average blood glucose concentration over previous weeks; in individuals with poorly controlled diabetes, increases in the quantities of these glycated hemoglobins are noted (patients monitoring)



## **ERYTHROPOETIN**

- Glycoprotein, 39 000,  $\alpha$ 2-globulin.
- Recombinant erythropoetin.
- Small amount in plasma, urine, lymph, foetal blood.
- Inactivation: liver
- Origin: kidneys (85-90%) fibroblasts associated with peritubular capillaries in kidney core, liver (10-15%)
- Stimulation of release: tissue hypoxia of any origin, alkalosis, cobalt salts, androgens, catecholamines  $(\beta$ -receptors) Effects:
- Erythropoetin responsive cell differentiation into erythroid line: increase of synthesis of nucleic acids, increase of iron absorption in erythroid cells, stimulation of cells release from bone marrow into circulation

Acclimation – adaptation to high altitude

# **EPO** in kidneys





*Mechanisms of action of androgens in hematology. A: androgens bind steroid receptors, inducing a higher expression of telomerase, which leads to stabilization of chromosomes and restoration of hematopoiesis. B: androgens synergize with erythropoietin enhancing downstream signaling and boosting erythropoiesis. C: androgens may act on phagocytes of innate immunity, decreasing platelet clearance. D: androgens may stabilize red cell membrane, preventing hemolysis and erythrocyte clearance. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)*



## **ERYTHROPOESIS**

Substances affecting erythropoesis

### *Need of copper*

Ceruloplasmin – binding protein ( $\alpha$ 2-globulin) with ferroxidase activity. Oxidation of  $Fe<sup>2+</sup>$  to  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$  is necessary for binding of iron to transferrin.

### *Need of cobalt*

Part of vitamin  $B_{12}$  molecule.

*Vitamin B12 (cyancobalamin)*

Produced by bacteria in GIT.

Source: liver, kidneys, meet, milk products…

Resorption: necessity of s.c. **intrinsic factor** secreted by parietal cells of gastric

fundus and body. Bound to transcobalamins in blood.

Stored in liver, pancreas, kidneys, brain, myocardium.

Function: synthesis of nucleic acids, co-factor in conversion of ribonucleotids to deoxyribonucleotids, production of metabolic active forms of folic acid

NECESSARY FOR NORMAL DIVISION AND MATURATION OF RED BLOOD CELL LINE ELEMENTS.

Symptoms of anaemia after years only!!!

**Pernicious anaemia.**

### *Folic acid (pteroylglutamic)*

Produced by higher plants and micro-organisms.

### **Source: green vegetables, yeast, liver, kidneys…**

Function: part of co-enzymes during synthesis of DNA, participation in cell division and differentiation

Deficiency: deficient nutrition, treatment with cytostatics (methotrexate) Symptoms of anaemia already after couple of months!!!

**Macrocyte hyperchromic anaemia.**

### *Other vitamins*

**Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) – metabolism of amino acids, synthesis of hem** Vitamin B2 (riboflavin) – part of flavoprotein enzymes – reductases of erythrocytes (normal function and survival of erythrocytes). Normocyte anaemia with lower reticulocytes count.

Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) – non-specific function in erythropoesis.

### *Hormonal influences*

Androgens, estrogens, hormones of thyroid gland, glucocorticoids, growth hormone.





Pasricha SR, McHugh K, Drakesmith H. Regulation of Hepcidin by Erythropoiesis: The Story So Far. Annu Rev Nutr. 2016 Jul 17;36:417-34. doi: 10.1146/annurevnutr-071715-050731. Epub 2016 May 4. PMID: 27146013.

Potential mechanisms of erythroid suppression of hepcidin. Blood loss, anemia of inflammation, hemolytic anemias, and genetic diseases causing ineffective erythropoiesis produce anemia that is sensed by the kidney, increasing erythropoietin production. Erythropoietin (Epo) increases bone marrow erythropoiesis, and the combination of increased erythropoiesis and elevated Epo increases erythroferrone expression by erythroblasts. Erythroferrone circulates in the plasma to cause hepatic suppression of hepcidin, facilitating iron absorption and recycling. Hypoxia may play a complementary role in increasing iron absorption in this context: First, it may increase Epo production, thus stimulating the erythropoiesis-erythroferrone axis; second, it may increase platelet-derived growth factor BB (PDGF-BB) (through each of these pathways hypoxia suppresses hepcidin); finally, hypoxia may directly increase iron absorption through expression of intestinal divalent metal transporter 1 (DMT1) and ferroportin.



Kumar RS, Goyal N. Estrogens as regulator of hematopoietic stem cell, immune cells and bone biology. Life Sci. 2021 Mar 15;269:119091. doi: 10.1016/j.lfs.2021.119091. Epub 2021 Jan 18. PMID: 33476629.



Rasheed A. Niche Regulation of Hematopoiesis: The Environment Is "Micro," but the Influence Is Large. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2022 Jun;42(6):691-699. doi: 10.1161/ATVBAHA.121.316235. Epub 2022 Apr 14. PMID: 35418246.



Jara EL, Muñoz-Durango N, Llanos C, Fardella C, González PA, Bueno SM, Kalergis AM, Riedel CA. Modulating the function of the immune system by thyroid hormones and thyrotropin. Immunol Lett. 2017 Apr;184:76-83. doi: 10.1016/j.imlet.2017.02.010. Epub 2017 Feb 17. PMID: 28216261.



James J Vanhie, Matthew Ngu, Michael De Lisio, Recent advances in understanding the role of high fat diets and their components on hematopoiesis and the hematopoietic stem cell niche,Current Opinion in Food Science, Volume 34, 2020, Pages 30-37, ISSN 2214-7993.

The effects of dietary components enriched in high fat diets on hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells of the bone marrow. Obesity induced by high fat diet reduces HSPC content and increases myelopoiesis. Initial evidence suggests that fatty acids, cholesterol-rich lipoproteins, and signaling through the vitamin D receptor all contribute in distinct but related ways to the obesity-associated phenotype in HSPCs, while diets rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids may reverse some of the effects of obesity on HSPCs.



Disorder, in which basic and characteristic feature is **lower amount of haemoglobin.** Usually also haematocrit and red blood cell count in 1 litre of blood are below physiological value.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF ANEMIAS**

### **MORPHOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION**

Evaluation of erythrocyte volume and concentration of haemoglobin in erythrocytes

- 1. Normocyte anaemia
- 2. Microcyte a.
- 3. Macrocyte
- 1. Normochromic anaemia
- 2. Hypochromic a.

### **PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION**

Anaemias caused by inefficient blood production Sideropenic anaemias – lack of iron Megaloblastic a. – lack of vitamin  $B_{12}$  or folic acid Anaemias caused by suppression of blood production Anaemias in chronic diseases and symptomatic anaemias Thalasemia

### Anaemias caused by increased losses

Haemolytic a.– caused by increased destruction of erythrocytes Chronic posthaemorhagic anemia

Acute posthaemorhagic anaemia

### **ANTIGENS AND ANTIBODIES OF RED BLOOD CELLS**

1) History of blood transfusions.

2) *Posttransfusion reactions*: aglutination, haemolysis (immediate or delayed), life-threatening complications (jaundice, damage of kidneys, anuria, death – in case of full blood or RBCs administration, in case of plasma – dilution of aglutinins!!! *Autoimmune diseases. Paternity tests, event. transplantology.*

- 3) *Antigens of blood cells***:**
- a) 30 antigen systems (ABO, Rh, MNSs, Lutheran, Kell, Kidd, Lewis, Diego, P, Duffy…)
- b) hundreds of other "weak" antigens (important for paternity testing, organ transplantations)
- 4) *Aglutinogen***:** antigen of plasmatic membrane of cells
- complex oligosaccharide
- erytrocytes, salivary glands, pancreas, liver, kidney, lungs, testes
- saliva, sperm, amnionic fluid, milk, urine

5) *Aglutinin*: antibody against aglutinogen, γ-globulin (IgM –AB0 system, IgG – Rh system), produced in the same way as other antibodies

- **after births almost zero concentration in blood**

- production of aglutinins begins 2-8 months after birth: **stimulation by antigens similar to aglutinogens – in food, in GIT bacteria**

- maximal concentration of antibodies is reached in 8-10 years, decreases gradually with age

## Blood group systems



### **A-B-O SYSTEM**



Described by Landsteiner in 1901, 1930 – awarded by Nobel Price. Janský -1906.

Frequency of blood groups in ABO system:  $\sqrt{47\%}$  (38%)



Subgroups in A a B blood groups.

 $A_1$  (1 million copies of antigen on 1 ery),  $A_2$  (250 thousands copies).

Heredity: both A and B is inherited dominantly, according to Mendel´s law.

## **Rh SYSTEM**

Monkey *Maccacus rhesus*. 40th of the  $20<sup>th</sup>$  century, Wiener a Landsteiner. Frequency: 85% - Rh<sup>+</sup>, 15% - Rh<sup>-</sup>.

Antigens D, C, E, d, c, e. Present only on erythrocytes.

 $D$  – the ,,strongest" antigen: Rh – positive, Rh – negative (produces anti-D aglutinin after contact with D-erythrocytes).

Aglutinins production: only after the contact with D-erythrocytes (transfusion, foetal erythroblastosis). High concentration of anti-D antibodies lasts for many years!!!

### **HAEMOLYTIC JAUNDICE OF NEWBORNS**

Rh-negative mother x Rh-positive foetus.

*First pregnancy* – immunisation of mother during delivery (or interruption or miscarriage!!!).

*Next pregnancy* – anti-D aglutinins (IgG) cross foetoplacental barrier.

*Foetus damage:* approx. in 17% of next pregnancies

Haemolysis of foetal erythrocytes – haemolyti disease of newborn (erythroblastosis fetalis): •anaemia

•jaundice

•oedemas – event. hydrops fetalis •CNS damage (icterus) –bile acids enter CNS (no haematoencephalic barrier!) •deaths of foetus in utero

#### *Prevention of foetal damage***:**

1) administration of small doses of anti-D antibodies to mother during pregnancy 2) administration of one dose of anti-D antibodies during postpartum period

Success of therapy: up 90%.

